



Daily Report

East Asia

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KEDO Chief on Start of DPRK Reactor Project Work

OW1104090696 Tokyo KYODO in English
0849 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, April 11 KYODO — Preparations for the construction of two light-water nuclear reactors in North Korea are going smoothly, and construction work for some related infrastructure could begin as early as June or July, the top man in charge of the project said in a recent interview.

Stephen Bosworth, executive director of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), the international consortium which is coordinating the project, told KYODO News that the 4.5 billion dollar project "continues to move ahead in a satisfactory manner," despite hard-line signals from Pyongyang in other areas.

Over the weekend, heavily armed North Korean soldiers made incursions into the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea in violation of the Korean armistice agreement, heightening tension on the Korean peninsula.

A number of governments including the United States have called on Pyongyang, which has said it will no longer abide by the buffer zone, to respect the truce accord.

Bosworth, who late last month returned from reactor talks in Pyongyang, said North Korea's actions are "not something new." "I think it's something that the international community should be concerned about, but not necessarily alarmed about at this point."

Noting that no incursions have taken place over the last few days, Bosworth said he expects the situation to greatly improve if no further incidents occur.

"I'm not clear about what their objectives are outside of the light-water reactor program," Bosworth said, suggesting that the North Korean military and his

negotiating counterparts from the North Korean Foreign Ministry have been following different agendas.

He said he has "no evidence" that the north's de facto leader Kim Chong-il is not in charge or that the system is doomed to collapse despite apparent food and energy shortages.

"I think that the expectation of imminent collapse is not an adequate base for policy. And certainly it is not the basis of KEDO's existence or of what we're trying to do."

But he said that in the long term, economic prospects for North Korea "would clearly not be good."

Bosworth noted that the North Koreans have repeatedly pledged to maintain the freeze on their nuclear program as long as KEDO sticks to its side of the bargain, such as in supplying of heavy fuel oil.

North Korea agreed to the freeze in a landmark deal with the United States in October 1994 in exchange for two light-water reactors and alternative energy sources.

The U.S.-led KEDO, which was founded in March last year as a spinoff of the nuclear deal, is to conduct its fifth inspection of the proposed reactor site at Shinpo on North Korea's northeastern coast later this month, he said.

Construction of one or two roads leading to the site could start within two or three months and site preparation such leveling of the ground is slated to begin in August or September, he added.

"We will begin ordering some of the major (reactor) components on which a long lead time is required for their manufacturer, we'll begin doing that later this year."

The 56-year-old Bosworth, who doubles as the president of the U.S.-Japan Foundation, is a former State Department policy planner and diplomat.

Japan

Tokyo Preparing for Hashimoto To Propose Aviation Talks at Summit

OW1204130296 Tokyo KYODO in English
1247 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO — The Japanese Government has initiated preparations to have Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto propose the start of talks on the passenger service portion of Japan-U.S. aviation arrangements when he meets U.S. President Bill Clinton next Wednesday [16 April], government sources said Friday.

Japan has been calling for the launching of passenger service talks on the grounds that it has been at a disadvantage under the 1952 bilateral aviation agreement due to the smaller number of flights allowed by Japanese airlines between the two countries in comparison with U.S. carriers.

But the U.S. Government has refused the Japanese demand, stressing a wide difference in interest among American carriers.

For example, United Airlines and Northwest Airlines are treated favorably under the existing aviation accord, while Delta Airlines and other carriers hope to secure new routes through a revision of the accord.

The Japanese Government seeks to break the impasse at the coming Hashimoto-Clinton meeting and thereby pave the way for the launch of passenger service negotiations, the sources said.

Japan: 'Official' Urges Early Start on Passenger Aviation Talks

OW1304051096 Tokyo KYODO in English
0447 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 12 KYODO — Japan urged the United States on Friday [12 April] to start talks at an early date for reviewing the passenger portion of the bilateral aviation treaty, a Japanese official said.

The Japanese move came at a meeting here for completing an official document of an agreement reached last month on the air cargo sector.

The U.S. side did not formally offer a reply, the official said.

The two nations agreed six months ago, when they started the cargo talks, to move on to the passenger portion after resolving the cargo issue. But the two sides have not yet officially requested discussions on the passenger sector.

At the meeting here, the U.S. side also declined to offer its immediate response to Japan's request for consultations over the issue of Washington shelving an application by Japan airlines to begin flights between Tokyo and Kona, Hawaii, this month, the official said.

As for the air cargo document, U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena will sign it shortly and send it to Tokyo for signing by Japan's Transport Minister Yoshiyuki Kamei, the official said.

He noted that the agreement will go into effect before president Bill Clinton's three-day state visit to Japan starting Tuesday.

Japan: U.S. Not To Attend Chip Talks; Impact on Summit Discussed

OW1404013996 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 13 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Government has notified Japan that it will not attend inter-government "tripartite talks on semiconductor trade" among Japan, the United States, and the European Union [EU] scheduled for May, it was learned on 12 April. Underlying Washington's decision not to take part in the talks is its wariness of the possibility that Japan, which maintains its negative position on extending a Japan-U.S. accord on semiconductor — due to expire in late July — will take concerted action with the EU to oppose the extension of the agreement. Since the U.S. Government plans to give priority to bilateral talks with Japan, the U.S. position may possibly have some impact on Japan-U.S. summit talks next week. Although it is observed that efforts will be made to settle the issue by making the agreement an accord at the private sector level, negotiations between the two governments on the extent to which the governments should be involved in the issue has now gained momentum.

The first round of tripartite talks was held in Brussels in March, and the three sides agreed to hold the second session in Tokyo in May. A concrete schedule for the second meeting is being coordinated by organs concerned, including the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI]. In tripartite talks, the three sides discuss supply and demand in global markets, the promotion of technical cooperation, and the issue of extending the Japan-U.S. accord on semiconductor trade. Thus, tripartite talks have become an opportunity for substantive discussions at the government level.

Officials concerned have said the U.S. Government will not take part in the tripartite talks on the grounds that "the Japanese Government has shown no stance of making concessions at all" with regard to the extension

of the agreement on semiconductor trade. It seems that the U.S. interpretation of the remark by Deputy Vice Minister Sakamoto of MITI that "the era of bilateral talks has ended" as Japan's rejection of all of bilateral negotiations has invited Washington's opposition.

In response to the U.S. delegates' call at the first session of tripartite talks for renewing and extending the Japan-U.S. agreement, the Japanese counterparts stressed that the agreement should be terminated when it expires, saying "there is the possibility that the extension of the accord will run counter to agreements under the World Trade Organization." Meanwhile, the EU criticized the U.S. Government's attitude, saying "it is unreasonable to hold discussions between Japan and the United States on such issues as the U.S. share of semiconductors in the Japanese market." It seems that following the first tripartite talks, the United States has taken a watchful attitude toward the possibility of Japan, in cooperation with the EU, fortifying the "net encircling the United States." It seems that the United States, in the end, announced its decision not to attend the second round of tripartite talks.

The Japanese and U.S. semiconductor industries are moving ahead on taking over the current semiconductor accord as a private sector level agreement. This move is expected to be welcomed at the Japan-U.S. summit talks. However, since the U.S. Government strongly maintains its position that "the government's involvement and guarantee to a certain extent in such areas as sharing research are necessary," it intends to seek the settlement of the issue at the government level.

Another purpose of the announcement not to take part in the tripartite talks is to shake up Japan while keeping an eye on such events as the Japan-U.S. summit talks slated to be held next week and quadrilateral talks between Japan, the United States, the EU, and Canada. It seems likely that negotiations at the level of the government and private sectors will become more active as the term of the semiconductor accord nears at hand.

Japan: Hashimoto Says U.S. Trade Policy Unchanged Under Kantor

OW1504020996 Tokyo KYODO in English
0154 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Monday [15 April] the United States' trade policy toward Japan will in effect remain unchanged following the appointment Friday of U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor as commerce secretary.

Hashimoto told reporters at his official residence that Kantor will take charge of both the Commerce Depart-

men and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), with Charlene Barshefsky serving as acting USTR.

"I believe trade policy will in effect be unchanged," he said, describing Kantor as a "tough negotiator."

Kantor became commerce secretary to succeed Ron Brown, who was killed in a plane crash in Croatia earlier this month.

In June last year, Hashimoto, then international trade and industry minister, and Kantor brought to a successful conclusion negotiations on the automobile issue, one of the thorniest problems in the bilateral trade relationship.

International Trade and Industry Minister Shumpei Tsukahara, meanwhile, told reporters that he does not expect any change in the U.S.'s basic trade policy because of Barshefsky's appointment as acting trade representative.

He also said he is counting on Barshefsky for her expertise on China.

Tsukahara said he and Barshefsky will be able to talk in a friendly environment because "both of us are new." Tsukahara assumed the post of trade minister in January.

On the nomination of Kantor as commerce secretary, Tsukahara said the arrangement, which he believes is a promotion, is "gratifying."

Japan's Tsukahara: Clinton Summit Statement May Skirt Trade Issues

OW1504041396 Tokyo KYODO in English
0358 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton will not mention directly three pending trade issues in a joint statement to be issued after their summit meeting Wednesday [17 April], government sources said Monday.

The statement will stress future efforts to settle the issues of insurance, semiconductors and photographic film, saying the two nations will positively cooperate in resolving economic issues by giving priority to pending issues, the sources said.

International Trade and Industry Minister Shumpei Tsukahara also said the three pending trade issues are unlikely to be on the agenda of the summit meeting.

"There is only a small possibility that the leaders will refer to specifics at this opportunity," Tsukahara said at a press conference after an extraordinary cabinet meeting.

The government sources said both nations are interested in putting the spotlight on the cooperative relationship between the two by emphasizing results of trade accords made so far while giving the importance to security.

Therefore, the two sides have decided to put off negotiations on the three pending trade issues, the sources said.

On the insurance issue, Tokyo and Washington remain at odds despite Saturday's last-ditch effort to reach an agreement before Clinton's state visit to Japan on Tuesday.

The two nations agreed to continue talks with a deadline of June 1.

On the semiconductor issue, the U.S. side has called for a further extension of the 1991 government-to-government agreement, which is due to expire at the end of July.

Leaders of industries in the two nations are scheduled to meet in Honolulu on April 25 in a bid to find a solution within the private sector, the sources said.

On the photo film issue, the U.S. side is considering countermeasures to improve foreign access to the Japanese market, including filing a complaint with the World Trade Organization, they said.

Now that Washington and Tokyo have resolved their impasse over the return of a U.S. air base in Okinawa, a major dispute on the security front, the two countries are expected to shift their focus to trade issues.

Tsukahara, however, said the Japan-U.S. relationship is a "mature and adult" one and the two countries will not trade off political and economic issues that "belong to different dimensions."

Japan: MOFA Views Framework Talks With U.S.

OW1504054696 (Internet) Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in English 12 Apr 96

["Questions and Answers" on Japan-U.S. Economic Framework Talks; from the "Q & A on Japan-U.S. Relations" link of the special Clinton home page]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Mechanism To Work the Problems out by Two-way Dialogue [subhead]

Q. I heard that Japan and the United States negotiate economic issues under the Japan-United States Framework Talks. What sort of mechanism is it?

A. The Japan-U.S. Framework Talks have been and still are a main mechanism to manage economic issues between the two nations. The Framework Talks were inaugurated in July 1993 after then Prime Minister

Miyazawa and President Clinton had agreed, in April of the same year, to hold them.

The following are the three main areas of concern in the Framework Talks: each country is to pursue its macroeconomic goals, with Japan reducing its current account surplus and the United States encouraging domestic savings; consultations between Japan and the United States are to address issues in such sectors as government procurement, insurance, autos and auto parts; and, both countries support the Common Agenda for Cooperation in Global Perspective.

Q. One sometimes hears the criticism that the thrust of Japan-United States trade negotiations tends to run contrary to international rules, such as those set out by the WTO. What are the underlying principles guiding the Framework Talks?

A. Japan and the United States conduct the Framework Talks with due respect for international rules, so such criticism is unwarranted. For your reference, the Talks are conducted in accordance with the following basic principles:

1. Two-way dialogue between both countries.
2. Sharing of benefits with other countries on a most-favored nation (MFN) basis equally.
3. The scope of the negotiations to be limited to items which governments are able to deal with and which are within government reach.
4. Disputes to be resolved in accordance with international rules such as the WTO Agreement.
5. Refrain from application of unilateral measures (such as sanctions under Section 301 of the United States Trade Act).
6. Managed-trade approaches such as setting numerical targets to be avoided.

Japan: 'Source' Says Insurance Talks To Continue With U.S.

OW1304040996 Tokyo KYODO in English GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 12 KYODO — U.S. and Japanese negotiators will continue talks on the insurance issue Saturday [13 April] after failing to bridge differences, due partly to a lack of time in the first-day session, a Japanese source said Friday.

The two sides discussed "more deeply than past sessions" in morning and afternoon talks, but differences remained "wide," the source said.

But he noted that they had to cancel their plan to reconvene talks in the evening due to president Bill Clinton's announcement to appoint U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor as the new commerce secretary to succeed Ron Brown, who died last week in an airplane crash in Croatia.

The Japanese side was headed by Eisuke Sakakibara, director general of the Finance Ministry's International Finance Bureau, and the U.S. side was led by Ira Shapiro, senior counsel and negotiator at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

The two nations resumed the talks here in a bid to resolve the insurance issue before Clinton's state visit to Tokyo next week, with the U.S. side slated to offer its response to Japan's new proposal made at a meeting in Los Angeles last weekend.

Japanese sources have said Tokyo was ready to limit the timetable and scope for subsidiaries of Japanese life and nonlife insurance companies entering the so-called "third sector."

The two nations have been at odds over the interpretation of the 1994 insurance agreement, which calls for substantial liberalization of the life and nonlife insurance sectors before allowing Japanese insurers to enter the third sector.

Japan virtually allows only foreign insurers to sell third-sector products such as nursing and cancer policies that combine life and nonlife insurance benefits.

But the U.S. side has voiced concerns over Tokyo violating the accord by allowing subsidiaries to enter the sector.

Japan: Officials Say No Insurance Agreement Before Summit

OW1404032496 Tokyo KYODO in English
0313 GMT 14 Apr 96

[By Kohei Murayama]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 13 KYODO — The United States and Japan on Saturday [13 April] failed to resolve their insurance dispute in two days of talks here, but agreed to set a June 1 deadline for settling the issue, the top Japanese negotiator at the talks said.

"We had constructive talks, but failed to sort out common ground completely," said Eisuke Sakakibara, director general of the finance ministry's International Finance Bureau.

But the two nations "agreed to continue discussions with a target (for agreement) of June 1," Sakakibara reporters. [sentence as received]

The two sides will hold the next round of talks in Tokyo but were not able to set a date because of a U.S. personnel shuffle, he said.

On Friday, President Bill Clinton appointed U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor as Commerce Secretary to succeed Ron Brown, who died last week in an airplane crash in Croatia.

U.S. officials were not available for comment. The U.S. side was led by Ira Shapiro, senior counsel and negotiator at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

A senior Japanese official, who requested anonymity, told reporters that the two nations "will not be able to reach an agreement" before Clinton's three-day visit to Tokyo starting Tuesday.

The insurance sector is one of four trade areas where Washington has called for progress before the president's trip to Japan. The three other areas are semiconductors, air cargo, and photographic film and paper, but the two nations struck a deal last month in the air cargo talks.

But the official said he believed progress was made at the two-day session, and during Clinton's visit, the two nations are expected to note the new deadline in their assessment of progress in the insurance issue.

The Clinton administration said this week that the two nations are making enough progress on trade issues to allow Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to focus on security issues when they meet in Tokyo.

Sakakibara said the two sides remain apart on the "interpretation" of the so-called third sector under the 1994 bilateral insurance accord, although the two-day session centered on discussions over Japan's proposals.

Speaking briefly to reporters shortly before the second-day session, Shapiro said, "So far, we've spent considerable time discussing proposals with our industry."

The two nations have been at odds over the implementation of the accord, which calls for such special measures in the third sector as avoiding "any radical change" and introduction of "new and expanded products" by Japanese subsidiaries before "substantially" liberalizing the "primary" life and nonlife insurance sectors.

Major U.S. interests want to secure a strong hold on Japan's third sector. The two primary sectors are effectively dominated by powerful major Japanese life and nonlife insurance companies.

Japan virtually allows foreign insurers to sell only third-sector products such as nursing and cancer policies that combine life and nonlife insurance benefits.

Under the revised insurance business law which went into effect April 1, Japanese life and nonlife insurers can enter each other's turf through subsidiaries. But the Japanese finance ministry is shelving related ordinances to enforce the revised law in the areas that remain unresolved.

The U.S. side has insisted that new and expanded products apply to all third-sector products, while Japanese negotiators have maintained that they apply only to cancer insurance, the official said.

Both sides presented new proposals on this issue at the two-day session, the unidentified Japanese official said. But he declined to comment on details.

The official specified Japan's proposals made in the previous meeting in Los Angeles last weekend over further liberalizing the primary life and nonlife sectors.

As the centerpiece of the proposals, Tokyo promises approval of new products and premium rates applied by insurers that are not members of a Japanese industry group that estimates premium rates, the official said.

The Japanese side also proposed introducing a mail order system in auto insurance, and further liberalizing "advisory" premium rates in fire insurance, he said.

The U.S. side focused on seeking "clarification" of these liberalization proposals, the official said.

Japan: Finance Ministry: No Multilateral Talks on Insurance Issues

*OW1504105096 Tokyo KYODO in English
1039 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — Vice Finance Minister Tadashi Ogawa said Monday [15 April] his ministry has no intention of discussing the insurance market dispute with the United States on a multilateral basis.

"The issue cannot be generalized," Ogawa said at a news conference. "Japan and the U.S. should seek a compromise, based on their past negotiating process."

He made the remark in reference to Japanese moves to try to broaden discussions on the Japan-U.S. semiconductor trade issue by including the European Union in the talks.

Japan and the U.S. failed to hammer out an agreement on the insurance sector at their two-day weekend talks in Washington. They agreed, however, to set a June 1 deadline for settling the dispute.

Ogawa indicated there was some progress at the Washington talks. "Though the two countries failed to reach a full agreement, they had constructive talks," he said.

Previously, Japanese officials said the two countries were "wide apart" on the issue.

Ogawa said that at the Washington meeting the U.S. called for "clarification" of compromise proposals made by Japan.

At the center of the insurance talks is the scope of so-called "third sector" products to be handled by life and nonlife subsidiaries of Japanese insurers.

The U.S. insists such subsidiaries should not be allowed to handle third sector products until Japan fully liberalizes its primary life and nonlife insurance sectors.

Ogawa said Japanese proposals include easier curbs on ways to sell nonlife insurance products and approval of new products and premium rates not currently covered by a Japanese industry body. The industry body was created to set an appropriate products structure and premium rates for nonlife insurance products.

Japan: Insurance Talks Said Not To Affect Japan-U.S. Summit

*OW1504114296 Tokyo KYODO in English
1123 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — Failure to resolve the insurance row between Japan and the United States will not overshadow Wednesday's [17 April] summit between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

"The insurance dispute has yet to be resolved despite very serious and constructive negotiations between the two countries," Vice Foreign Minister Sadayuki Hayashi told a news conference.

"We are grappling with the issue in earnest and I hope the U.S. side is also aware of that," said the top career diplomat at the ministry. "I don't think this matter will cast a shadow over the summit."

On Saturday, Japan and the U.S. failed to resolve their insurance quarrel in two days of talks in Washington, but they did agree to set a June 1 deadline for settling the issue.

The two countries remain apart on so-called "third sector" products and to what extent Japanese life and nonlife insurance subsidiaries will be allowed to operate in that sector.

In their summit, Hashimoto and Clinton are expected to focus more on the importance of the bilateral security partnership in the post-cold war era rather than on bilateral economic issues.

**Japan: Trade Ministry Official Urges
Tsukahara-Kantor Meeting**

OW1504071496 Tokyo KYODO in English
0650 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — A bilateral meeting should be arranged between International Trade and Industry Minister Shumpei Tsukahara and new U.S. Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor, who will accompany U.S. President Bill Clinton on his state visit to Tokyo starting Tuesday [16 April], a senior Japanese Trade Ministry official said Monday.

The meeting should be held "though it will not be easy (for the ministers) to find time," Vice International Trade and Industry Minister Tomio Tsutsumi said at a news conference, noting that no schedule has been fixed for the meeting yet.

Kantor was appointed to the post last week to succeed Ron Brown, who was killed in a plane crash in Croatia earlier this month. Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky will be acting trade representative to assume the post previously held by Kantor.

Kantor is expected to skip this weekend's quadrilateral meeting in Kobe of trade ministers from Japan, the United States, Canada and the European Union, which he was supposed to attend as trade representative. He was expected to meet bilaterally with Tsukahara in Kobe.

At the quadrilateral meeting, the "quad" trade ministers are likely to discuss ongoing multilateral talks on basic telecommunications services under the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the agenda of the WTO ministerial meeting in Singapore slated for December.

While noting the government has yet to finalize the list of Japanese ministers attending the meeting, Tsutsumi indicated Posts and Telecommunications Minister Ichiro Hino and Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda will be among them, saying, "Necessary people will attend necessary negotiations."

Japan: Foreign Ministry Views Auto Issues With U.S.

OW1304043096 (Internet) Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in English 10 Apr 96

["Question and Answers" on "The Japan-U.S. Autos and Auto Parts Consultations"; from the "Economy" subhead of the "Q & A on Japan-U.S. Relations" link of the special Clinton visit home page]

**[FBIS Transcribed Text] Steadfast Implementation of
the Measures and Increased Foreign Access to the
Japanese Autos and Auto Parts Market**

Q. What measures has Japan implemented since the conclusion of the Japan-United States Autos and Auto Parts Consultations?

A. In accordance with the conclusion of the Japan-United States Autos and Auto Parts Consultations, Japan has steadfastly implemented such measures as follows.

On 29 June, notifications were sent to Japan Federation of Auto Parts Sales Associations and to other organizations, regarding measures to further enhance access to the Japanese replacement parts market. These notifications reconfirmed that they should refrain from any form of discrimination as to whether parts are foreign- or Japanese-made, and that they should offer information to repair service garages and customs concerning auto parts which can be used including foreign-made replacement parts. (Relevant part of Final Conclusions: IV.A.14 and IV.A.15.)

On 1 July, floor space requirements for certified repair garages handling ordinary automobiles were relaxed. (Relevant part of Final Conclusions: IV.A.4.a.)

Also on 1 July, a reduction was made in the number of tools and pieces of equipment required for certified and designated repair garages. (Relevant part of Final Conclusions: IV.A.4.b.)

On 23 August, notification was sent to the Japan Automobile Services Promotion Association and other organizations, stressing that no discrimination is to be made against automobiles equipped with foreign-made auto parts or parts of mixed origin, during inspections of automobiles or at other times. (Relevant part of Final Conclusions: IV.A.12.)

On 5 September, notification was sent to the Japan Automotive Parts Association with regard to high-quality parts systems. (Relevant part of Final Conclusions: IV.A.12.)

On 20 September, contact points were established to handle requests and complaints with regard to the definition of disassembling repair, and to such matters as repair or modification inspections. (Relevant part of Final Conclusions: IV.A.3.a.ii, IV.A.3.e, and IV.A.11.)

On 18 October, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry designated contact personnel whose function is to receive communications from foreign vehicle manufacturers and others. (Relevant part of Final Conclusions: II.A.6.)

Also on 18 October, notification was sent to member companies of the Japan Automobile Dealers' Association, stating that Japanese automobile dealers are free to sell competing automobiles. (Relevant part of Final Conclusions: II.A.5.)

On 20 October, the Ministry of Transport issued a Ministerial Ordinance promulgating and enforcing amendment of some regulations relative to application of the Road Vehicles Act, reducing four critical parts requirements: shock absorbers, struts, power steering, and trailer hitches. (Relevant part of Final Conclusions: IV.A.3.c.)

On 16 November, notification was sent to all District Transport Bureaus and to automobile-related organizations, with regard to deregulation of modification inspections. Deregulation came into effect starting on 22 November. (Relevant part of Final Conclusions: IV.A.9.)

On 28 and 29 November, following a preparatory meeting held on 24 October, the Expert Consultations on Automotive Standards and Certification was held. (Relevant part of Final Conclusions: IV.B.2.)

Q. Have these measures helped to increase the exports of American and other foreign automobiles to Japan?

A. (1) The share of imported automobiles in the Japanese automobile market has continued to rise considerably. The imported automobiles has surpassed the previous year's share for three consecutive years since 1993. In 1995, 362,000 automobiles (an increase of 31 percent over the previous year) were imported to Japan and they shared 10.2 percent in Japan's automobile market.

(2) The export of automobiles manufactured in the U.S. to Japan is also swelling. In Japan, U.S. automobile sales rose by 34 percent in 1995 over the number of the previous year, totaling 123,000 units. As a result, U.S.-made automobiles have gained a 3.5 percent share of the Japanese market. The Big Three have set a preliminary target for sales in Japan of at least 100,000 cars per company by the year 2000. The Japanese consumer is likely to react favorably to such efforts of the Big Three as to introduce right-hand-drive models as announced, to establish and expand sales networks, and to improve their replacement parts supply systems.

Q. What about auto parts? I heard that it is another troublesome issue that American manufacturers are facing.

A. U.S. auto parts export to Japan is also expanding. In Japanese FY1994 (April, 1994 through March, 1995), the imports of U.S.-made auto parts by Japanese vehicle manufacturers reached U.S. \$3.2 billion, growing to 1.7 times the FY1991 (April, 1991 through March, 1992) level of U.S. \$2 billion. During the first half of Japanese FY1995 (April, 1995 through September, 1995), Japanese automobile manufacturers increased their imports of U.S.-made auto parts by 10 percent over the same period of the previous year. The amount

of imports could rise, if U.S. parts manufacturers make further efforts to sell their competitive products.

Q. How do Americans evaluate the efforts by Japan in this respect?

A. Officials and business leaders of the United States have highly appraised the implementation of the measures taken by Japan. After the conclusion of the Japan-United States Autos and Auto Parts Consultations, General Motors President John F. Smith, Jr. and United States Trade Representative Mickey Kantor gave a very positive assessment of the contents of the conclusions and subsequent developments.

Q. Japanese automakers in the United States contribute only to the Japanese economy after all, don't they?

A. On contrary, they benefit the U.S. economy a great deal. Japanese automakers in the United States are employing a significant number of U.S. workers, and are substantially contributing to the export of U.S. automobiles. After the conclusion of the Japan-United States Autos and Auto Parts Consultations in June 1995, Japanese automobile manufacturers in the United States, Toyota and Nissan, announced plans to construct new factories in the United States. This investment would further create many new jobs and should contribute greatly to the U.S. economy. In addition, exports of automobile produced by Japan's U.S.-based automakers contribute to the U.S. exports. Their exports exceed the total number of cars exported by the Big Three to abroad except the units to Canada.

Q. Did the highly tensed negotiation give negative impact on the cooperative relations among Japanese and U.S. automakers?

A. Not so much. As a matter of fact, the environment is now becoming more conducive to strengthening cooperative relations. For example, the 1995 Tokyo Motor Show presented the first opportunity in three and a half years for members of Japanese and United States auto manufacturers associations to confer together.

Japan: MITI 'Generally Welcomed' U.S. Report on Auto Trade

OW1304050596 Tokyo KYODO in English
0440 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO — Japan on Saturday [13 April] generally welcomed the positive evaluation by the United States in its first six-month review of a bilateral automobile trade accord with Japan.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) issued a statement saying it "welcomed the positive

evaluation on the current situation, even though the survey was carried out on the country's own initiative."

Masami Iwasaki, chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, said the review results suggest that the bilateral relationship, with regard to automotive trade, has taken a turn for the better.

The association thinks Washington's understanding on market-opening efforts by the Japanese Government and industry have deepened, Iwasaki said.

President Bill Clinton announced a report in Washington on Friday on the first review by the office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the Commerce Department, on the automobile trade agreement with Japan reached last September.

For the most part, the report gave Japan high marks, including on car exports to Japan and purchases of U.S. auto parts by Japanese automakers.

But MITI and the association both expressed frustration with the U.S. for describing the Japanese automobile market as closed in the report.

MITI said for the past 20 years Japan has been pushing strong market-opening policies not seen in other countries, including abolishing automotive import tariffs and providing import incentives.

The ministry however rejected the U.S. argument that the increase is not enough to meet the target in the number of new dealers of U.S. vehicles in Japan.

This is "a one-sided view" of the country and "the Japanese government has nothing to do with it," MITI said.

Japan: Business Leader Previews Hashimoto-Clinton Summit

OW1504113696 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 14 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 37

[Interview with Yotaro Kobayashi, chairman of the Japan-U.S. Economic Council and vice chairman of Keizai Doyukai (Japan Association of Corporate Executives), by unidentified NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reporter; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN] U.S. President Bill Clinton will come to Japan and have a summit meeting with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on 17 April. It seems that the U.S. side will emphasize economic issues.

[Kobayashi] With the presidential election approaching in November, President Clinton will most probably want to produce results favorable for the United States.

Take for example the Japan-U.S. semiconductor agreement. U.S. semiconductor makers are concentrated in the state of California, which has a large electoral constituency that can be decisive in the presidential election. To ensure his reelection, President Clinton would like to go home with tangible results in the semiconductor field. In these circumstances, it is likely that this issue will take on a strong political color that cannot be avoided during the talks.

[NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN] It is possible then that he may give in to political pressure?

[Kobayashi] I am opposed to the U.S. method of threatening with sanctions under Section 301 of the Trade Law. This is clearly in violation of the guiding principles of the WTO (World Trade Organization). Mr. Yoshihiro Sakamoto, deputy vice minister of international trade and industry, reportedly said in a speech last month that "the era of bilateralism has ended." I agree with him. I am not saying bilateral agreements are completely unnecessary. We must emphasize multi-lateral frameworks based on WTO principles.

At the same time, economic conflicts should be discussed and resolved at the private sector level. The government needs only to support such efforts. I think there are many issues that can be resolved in a responsible manner by the private sector. In that sense, I see no need to extend the intergovernmental agreement on semiconductors.

[NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN] What do you want the two leaders to do?

[Kobayashi] I hope they discuss the future of the economy and trade from a long-term viewpoint. They should engage in in-depth discussions with concepts such as the WTO and APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum) in mind.

[NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN] U.S. bases in Okinawa and the redefinition of the Japan-U.S. security alliance will also be important topics.

[Kobayashi] I think the security alliance is necessary for the time being. There are still destabilizing factors in the area around Japan, such as tensions between China and Taiwan, and on the Korean peninsula. It is a matter of course that Japan should take steps to be prepared, and we must recognize objectively that the Japan-U.S. security alliance is functioning effectively.

Ideally, I hope the security alliance does not exist. As in the case of economic issues, I hope the two leaders will conduct a dialogue from a long-term viewpoint and identify a future goal beyond the present bilateral security arrangements.

Japan: 'Success' Areas in 'Common Agenda' With U.S. Noted

OW1504042096 (Internet) Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in English 10 Apr 96

["Six Most Distinguished Stories of the Common Agenda," a joint initiative launched under the 1993 Japan-U.S. Framework for a New Economic Partnership; from the "Q & A on Japan-U.S. Relations" link of the special Clinton visit home page]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Common Agenda

Q: What is the Common Agenda?

A: The Common Agenda is a joint initiative between Japan and the United States designed to deal with a range of global issues as we move into the 21st century.

Under the Common Agenda, which was launched under the 1993 United States-Japan Framework for a New Economic Partnership, Japan and the United States have been working together in 20 fields including: environmental conservation, population, AIDS, disaster prevention, road technology, children's health, and assistance for women in developing countries. The results, described as "first-rate achievement" by U.S. Vice President Al Gore, represent one of the great success stories in Japan-U.S. relations.

The Six Most Distinguished Stories of the Common Agenda

1. Coping with Natural Disasters in Kobe and Los Angeles — Both Japan and the U.S. suffer earthquake damage from time to time. We need only remember serious quakes that struck recently: The Northridge Earthquake that damaged Los Angeles in January 1994, and the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake that hit Kobe and its surroundings one year later in January 1995.

Disaster relief is another area where both countries coordinate their efforts. For example, we have conducted joint studies of the damage caused by the two earthquakes mentioned above, and have held workshops to discuss ways to construct earthquake-resistant bridges and other structures. Both countries also intend to sponsor a Joint Earthquake Symposium. The knowledge gained from natural disasters must be shared with people throughout the world.

U.S. military forces stationed in Japan participated in relief efforts in the area devastated by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Their hard work, efficiency and capability created a very favorable impression among Japanese people. As an expression of Japan's gratitude for their valuable service, at the June 1995 G-7 Summit Meeting in Halifax, Prime Minister Murayama

presented President Clinton with messages of thanks written by children in Kobe.

2. Coral Reefs — Japan and the United States have proposed the International Coral Reef Initiative as a comprehensive program promoting three goals: research and monitoring of coral reef conditions; sustainable management of coral reefs; and personnel training. Both Governments called upon countries to attend an international workshop on coral reefs, held in the Philippines in May 1995.

The workshop, sponsored by Japan, the U.S., Australia, the U.K., France, the Philippines, Jamaica and Sweden, was attended by representatives from 33 countries and a number of international organizations, including the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). After discussing the current state of coral reefs around the world and efforts being taken to preserve them, the workshop issued documents entitled "Call to Action" and "Framework for Action," indicating the direction that future efforts should take in protecting coral reefs.

Subsequent to adoption of these two documents, a number of workshops have been held in various regions of the world, and progress is being made in the adoption of regional action plans. Japan has shown initiative in the East Asia region, working closely with UNEP to sponsor a successful workshop in Indonesia in March 1996.

3. Assistance for Women in Developing Countries — Japan and the United States both recognize that the participation of women in the development process is one of the keys to achieving sustainable development in developing countries. Similarly, supporting improvements in the economic and social circumstances of women is regarded as a key development strategy.

In accordance with these basic principles, the two countries have been working together on Women in Development (WID) — in particular striving to improve women's education and providing finance and other assistance to female microenterprise owners in developing countries.

Teaching equipment and materials have been provided to Guatemala for use in girls' education.

4. AIDS — The worldwide spread of AIDS is not only a keen problem for Japanese and American citizens, but also a serious global issue that must be addressed in a coordinated fashion by all humankind. Such efforts are yet another way to help countries attain sustainable economic development.

Japan and the United States are closely coordinating their assistance to fight this serious problem. For example, we perform joint surveys, implement assistance projects, and conduct personnel exchange programs.

One specific example of joint support given to fight AIDS is our assistance for the Noguchi Memorial Medical Research Institute in Ghana: Japan is providing technical assistance for experiments to develop advanced HIV diagnostic procedures, while the U.S. is providing funding for research purposes.

5. Children's Health — Immunization programs and an adequate supply of vaccines are indispensable for developing countries to safeguard the health of their children. Japan and the United States are therefore working closely together, providing support for the World Health Organization's Polio Eradication Program and the Children's Vaccine Initiative (CVI), with special emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region.

For some time, we have coordinated our attempts to eradicate polio in the Western Pacific, the region given first priority. These efforts have met with such success that the focus of attention has now turned to the second priority region, Southeast Asia. Our goal is to rid the area of polio by assisting countries concerned on the so-called National Immunization Day for the provision of polio vaccine to all children under the age of 5, and so on.

6. Population Problems — Rapid population increase is a problem in many developing countries. This has become a global issue that must be addressed in a coordinated fashion by all humankind. Such efforts are yet another way to help these countries attain sustainable economic development.

Japan and the United States are closely coordinating our assistance to address this problem. For example, we perform joint surveys, implement assistance projects, and conduct personnel exchange programs.

Japan: U.S. Agrees To Return, Reduce 9 Facilities on Okinawa

OW1304015896 Tokyo KYODO in English
0139 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO — Japan and the United States have agreed on the return and reduction of nine facilities used by U.S. forces if Okinawa prefecture, including the 4.8 million-square-meter Futenma Marine Airfield, government sources said Saturday [13 April].

Nearly half of the 7,800-hectare northern training area, which is the largest facility operated by U.S. forces in Okinawa, and all of the 60-hectare Gimbaru training

area will be returned to Japan without conditions for relocation, the sources said.

The streamlining, consolidation and reduction of these sites and facilities will be included in an interim joint task force report on the consolidation of military bases in the southernmost prefecture.

The special action committee report will be adopted next Monday at the committee's third meeting, which will be held in Tokyo ahead of U.S. President Bill Clinton's April 16-18 state visit.

The report will then be endorsed in a bilateral ministerial-level meeting involving the defense ministers and foreign ministers of the two countries later in the day. A final report is due in November.

If all the land to be listed on the report is actually vacated by U.S. Forces, the total area will surpass 4,300 hectares, the total that has been returned to Japan since Okinawa reverted to Japanese rule in 1972.

The Navy's Sobe communications center will be moved. Part of the site is being occupied without clear legal standing after the forced land lease expired on a plot of land in the facility at the end of March. The facility will be relocated to Iejima island, where an auxiliary airfield is located.

Also on the return and cutback list are Camp Kuwae, the Okuma Rest Center, the Naha Port facility and the Yomitan auxiliary airfield.

Concerning the return of the Yomitan airfield, Japan and the U.S. agreed in May last year to relocate the paratroop drills conducted at the facility to Camp Hansen.

The two countries are now negotiating to relocate the drills to another site after the citizens in communities around Camp Hansen voiced strong opposition.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale announced Friday an agreement on the return of the Futenma air base in five to seven years.

Okinawa accounts for a fraction of Japan's land area but hosts 75 percent of all U.S. military facilities in Japan in terms of land area.

Reduction of the U.S. military presence has become a prominent political issue in the wake of the abduction and rape of an Okinawa schoolgirl last September, for which three U.S. servicemen were convicted in March.

Japan: Ikeda, Mondale Sign Mutual Military Goods, Services Pact

OW1504052996 Tokyo KYODO in English
0516 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — Japan and the United States sealed a pact Monday [15 April] on mutual supply of military goods and services as part of efforts to enhance their security cooperation in the post-Cold War era.

Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale signed the bilateral agreement, known as the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), during bilateral ministerial-level security talks.

The pact covers 15 items Japan would offer the U.S. military in the course of joint training, such as food, water, fuel, clothing, spare parts and components, transportation, repair and maintenance.

It is limited to peacetime joint exercises, UN peacekeeping operations and international humanitarian relief activities, but does not cover emergency situations.

Japan will not apply its three principles regarding "no exports of weapons" in supplying weapons parts to the U.S. military under the ACSA, Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiya said in a statement.

It is the second exception to the principles against weapons exports, following a 1983 decision to supply military technology to the U.S.

The U.S. has signed similar agreements with 19 other countries and two organizations, but most cover mutual supply of goods and services in the event of emergencies.

The Japan-U.S. pact also will not be applied to U.S. military drills, because that could run counter to Japan's constitutional ban on the implementation of the right to collective self-defense.

The government will submit to the Diet a bill to revise the Self-Defense Forces Law and other bills needed for the ACSA in late April, officials said.

The U.S. first proposed the bilateral agreement in 1988. Last May, then Japanese Defense Agency chief Tokuchiro Tamazawa accepted the U.S. proposal when he visited Washington.

The ACSA also stipulates payment for goods and services, excluding ammunition, provided during joint drills and peacekeeping operations.

Japan: Foreign Minister Interviewed on U.S. Air Station, Summit

OW1404055696 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Summary] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 0000 GMT on 14 April in its "Sunday Discussion" program carries a 15-minute live interview with Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda by NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto at an NHK studio in Tokyo.

Yamamoto begins the interview by asking the foreign minister to explain the main reason why both countries reached an agreement on the return of the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station [MCFAS], although it had been said that it would be very difficult. Ikeda says: "As you know, we have been trying to ease as much as possible the burden the people in Okinawa have been shouldering for a long time. It is indispensable for us to ease the burden in order to firmly support the security system between Japan and the United States too. The MCFAS became a symbolic issue." "Literally, it is a result of Prime Minister Hashimoto's continuous efforts based on the strong wishes of the Okinawan people and subsequent decision made by President Clinton and Secretary of Defense Perry."

Asked why President Clinton made the decision, Ikeda says: "After all, we have to maintain the Japan-U.S. security system by every means. At the same time, we need to make the security system function the best it can. As I said earlier, we cannot do that without the understanding of the Okinawan people, even though the military bases actually exist."

Asked again if both countries made the decision to return the MCFAS within five to seven years on the assumption that the situation in East Asia would become stable by then, Ikeda says: "No. We cannot make a decision on the basis of such an optimistic view." Yamamoto points out that distribution of the MCFAS's functions to other bases is not linked to actual reduction of military bases. In response, Ikeda says: "Secretary of Defense Perry, Defense Agency Director General Usui, Ambassador Mondale, and I will have a meeting today. We may be able to announce outcomes of our discussions tomorrow. However, the MCFAS is not the only base; we are doing our best to reduce other bases as well."

On an interim report, which will be announced on 15 April at a meeting of the Japan-U.S. Special Action Committee on Okinawa, Ikeda says that he wants the Okinawan people, even though they may not be 100 percent satisfied with the report, to understand that the

government and the United States did their best under the given difficult conditions."

Yamamoto asks how the government will gain the understanding of the people in Kadena and Iwakuni, where functions of the MCFAS will be transferred in five to seven years. Ikeda says: "Well, it is a difficult point. We just mapped out a blueprint of what we will do. Everything depends on what we are about to do." He then says that the central government and local autonomies need to cooperate with each other in easing the burdens of the people who live near military bases. Ikeda continues to say that a Naval apron in Kadena Air Base, for example, can be relocated to other parts of the same base and that Harrier attack jets in Iwakuni can be moved to bases in the United States.

On the possibility of allowing the U.S. military to use commercial airports and port facilities during an emergency in the Far East, Ikeda says: "This is a issue we will be studying in the future."

Regarding the Self-Defense Forces' logistic support to the U.S. military, Ikeda says: "We have to study what we need to safeguard security in Japan and in the Far East. We need to study this in relation to the Constitution and other arrangements."

Asked if Japan will ultimately be forced to review the government's Constitutional interpretation on use of collective self-defense rights, Ikeda says: "There are many things we can do without violating the interpretation."

On reconfirmation of Japan-U.S. security arrangements at forthcoming Japan-U.S. summit talks, Ikeda explains the need to keep close ties with the United States, saying: "Although the Cold War has ended, cooperative ties with the United States continue to be very important to protect Japan even during the new era." "Firm maintenance of the security arrangement has an effect of creating stability in entire Asia-Pacific region."

Regarding the possible impact of the summit talks on future Japan-U.S. relations, Ikeda says: "The talks will play the role of not only reconfirming the security treaty but also expanding exchanges in a wide range of areas, including politics, economics, culture, and science and technology."

The interview ends at 0016 GMT.

Japan: Okinawa Governor Comments on Return of Futenma Air Station

OW1504123096 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese
15 Apr 96 Evening Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at a regular meeting with reporters on the morning of 15 April, Governor Ota touched on how the return of Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma, which was agreed between Japan and the United States, is related to the government's action to secure the forced extension of land lease contracts, including the circulation and perusal of documents on forcible use of land. The governor said: "I know the government has made efforts to effect the return of MCAS Futenma. But when it comes to a question of whether military base issues overall were settled, I do not necessarily think this is the case. Since the bases issue emerged, I have been saying that it [Okinawa's stand in not proceeding with the forced extension of lease contracts] is not a struggle to get better terms. I think legal problems should be settled as legal problems, and I want to deal with such problems at a different level." In this way, Governor Ota indicated his understanding that the return of the base will not be directly connected with procedures to force the extension of land leases.

He also indicated his view, saying: "The Okinawa Prefectural Office is calling for the return of the bases in three stages to create a peaceful Okinawa in the 21st Century. Although the return of MCAS Futenma is symbolic, the final decision has not been made yet on the details. I wonder to what extent the prefecture's action program will be reflected. I cannot comment until a conclusion of the Japan-U.S. action committee is reached. I need to see how the situation will develop."

As for the planned relocation of some of the functions of MCAS Futenma to Kadena Air Base, the governor indicated the view in Okinawa Prefecture that the relocation of Futenma was inevitable, saying: "The prefectural side, for its part, has no choice but to settle the issues one by one. This is the limit of what we can do as an administrative body."

Asked how the residents of the town to which the base will be relocated can be persuaded to accept the decision, the governor refrained from comment, saying: "I cannot answer it because I have not fully grasped the details of the plan."

He added: "The prefectural side has been calling on the Japanese and U.S. Governments to settle the issues of noise pollution and the U.S. Navy hardstanding areas, and our basic position remains unchanged," thus stressing his intention to come to grips with these issues.

Japan: Futenma Base Accord Draws Joy, Anger

OW1204154796 Tokyo KYODO in English
1454 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO — News of a Japan-U.S. accord on the return of a key airfield in Okinawa had local people rejoicing but shocked residents elsewhere Friday [12 April].

"The return of the whole Futenma base has been our top priority and we think the resolution of the issue shows the (central) government's sincerity," Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota told a news conference. "We would like to cooperate with the state in working toward the resolution."

The mayor of Ginowan, the city in the southwestern island prefecture that hosts the base, also welcomed the accord.

"I suppose many citizens who have been threatened by the danger of the base and nuisances like noise are glad to recover a quiet life," said Seiken Tobaru.

But residents near a U.S. airfield in Iwakuni, western Japan, where an airborne refueling squadron is to be relocated from Futenma, showed anger and dismay over the accord.

A communist prefectural assembly member blasted the way the agreement was reached and announced.

"They suddenly announce an accord reached without our knowledge and establish it as fact. We're really angry at the way the state forces it upon us," said Shuzo Nakajima of Iwakuni, Yamaguchi Prefecture.

In Tokyo, both the ruling coalition and the main opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) expresses appreciation for the accord.

"The return of Futenma is a symbol of reduction in the U.S. military bases in Okinawa. We initially thought it would be impossible. It's really a great achievement," said Koichi Kato, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party, a dominant coalition partner.

Shinshinto issued a statement expressing respect for U.S. President Bill Clinton who it said had made the great decision to return Futenma.

It urged both the coalition administration and the Okinawa prefectural government to cooperate in further consolidating the U.S. military presence there.

The Japanese Communist Party, meanwhile, blasted the accord, saying the return of Futenma is conditioned on relocating base functions elsewhere in Japan and on studying the use of other facilities in case of emergencies.

"This is a far cry from the Okinawan people's earnest demand for withdrawal of all military bases," it said.

Japan: Accord Reached on Return of Sobe Communications Site

OW1304143696 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 13 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 1

[By Chiyako Sato, Political Department reporter]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 12 April, the Japanese and U.S. Governments agreed in principle to return land used for the Sobe communications facility in Okinawa to its landowners, hopefully in five years. Facility functions will be relocated to Camp Hansen (in Kin Town and adjacent villages) in central Okinawa. It was also agreed to consolidate the Yomitan and Iejima Auxiliary Airfields by relocating the Yomitan Airfield, where U.S. Marine Corps parachute training is conducted, to the Iejima Airfield (in Ie Village).

While the Okinawa Prefectural Office has called for return of the Sobe communications site within 14 years at the latest, the two governments have positively studied Okinawa's request. For their part, the Japanese and U.S. Governments intend to provide a breakthrough in the issue regarding "illegal occupation" of a plot in the Sobe communications facility — which seems to have become a symbol of a strain in Japan-U.S. security arrangements — by promising to return the communications site far earlier than the Okinawa-proposed deadline.

The Japan-U.S. agreement on return of the Sobe site came to light on 12 April, when Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama spoke with reporters. Kajiyama made clear that "the Sobe communications facility will be returned in about five years."

As a result of Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota's refusal to sign documents for the forced extension of land lease contracts, the situation has fallen into a state wherein the government illegally occupies a plot in the Sobe communications site. The issue came into political question when the government refused to let Mr. Shoichi Chibana (47), one of the landowners, enter his plot.

Japan: Hashimoto, Perry Agree To Study Emergency Cooperation

OW1404134996 Tokyo KYODO in English
1324 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry agreed Sunday [14 April] to study how Japan and the United States can cooperate in regional emergencies, Japanese officials said.

During an hourlong meeting at the premier's office, they also agreed on the need for Tokyo and Washington to have close contact over policy on China, they said.

"There has been no change in the U.S. policy of maintaining dialogue (with Beijing) to let China have a commitment to the international community," Perry was quoted as saying.

"Such a policy is appropriate. I hope Japan and the United States will have close contact over Chinese policy for better relations with China," Hashimoto was quoted as telling Perry.

Perry arrived in Tokyo earlier Sunday on a two-day visit to discuss Japan-U.S. security, including consolidation of U.S. military bases in the southwestern Japanese island prefecture of Okinawa.

Hashimoto thanked the U.S. for efforts to reach an agreement on the return of the Futenma Airfield in Okinawa to local landowners over the next five to seven years.

"It's not an easy job to implement the return, but I want to take the necessary domestic measures to implement it," Hashimoto was quoted as saying.

The Futenma Air Base has been at the center of a controversy over how to consolidate U.S. bases in Okinawa Prefecture because it is located in a densely populated area. Local residents have long complained about noise and disruption.

As for legal wrangling over a small plot of land within a U.S. naval communications center in Okinawa whose land lease expired at the end of last month, Hashimoto assured Perry that the Japanese Government will take measures to abide by its obligation to provide land for U.S. military facilities under the bilateral security pact.

Shoichi Chibana, the owner of the plot, has filed a suit to win a court order for eviction of the military.

Perry also met his Japanese counterpart Hideo Usui and attend a Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee meeting Sunday evening.

Perry is slated to attend a committee meeting Monday to map out an interim report on how to consolidate and reduce U.S. bases in Okinawa Prefecture.

Japan: Hashimoto-Mondale News Conference on Bases

OW1304053396 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1116 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Question-and-answer session at a joint news conference by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. Ambas-

sador to Japan Walter Mondale at the Prime Minister's Official Residence on 12 April — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dean of Press Corps] I, as the dean of the press corps representing reporters here tonight, would like to ask questions first. The decision made today is something that Okinawa has longed for. Is it your appraisal that, with this decision, the government has accomplished the task of satisfying Okinawa's desire to see military bases reduced in a visible manner? Do you believe that the Okinawan people's dissatisfaction with military base-related issues will be resolved and their understanding gained?

[Hashimoto] First of all, the agreement we reached today means that we are shouldering the responsibility to ensure that this agreement will be realized. Whether we can accomplish the task in a period of five to seven years or even shorten that period depends on our own efforts. Ever since my inauguration as prime minister, I have been urged by the Okinawan people to at least designate the future goals for Futenma. I think I have lived up to that commitment. However, that is only the first step. Until the day when Futenma base is completely returned, this commitment will force upon us tasks we ourselves have to solve, such as building heliports while looking for places that will be less of a burden on the people. In working toward complete return of the Futenma base, we also have to cooperate with the Okinawa Prefectural Government to work out plans to divert returned land to other uses. For that matter, I believe there is much to do. Moreover, since there are many landowners involved in Futenma base, the central government now has to struggle hard to ensure that this agreement will be realized; and the prefectural government, too, will be required to join in the efforts. I, myself, have yet to decide how to approach the task. However, I have given some thought to this in the meantime, and what I have proposed just a while ago is to create a task force under Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Teijiro Furukawa that will be joined by responsible officials from relevant government ministries and agencies and the prefectural government. This task force will start with laying the blueprint, so to speak, for designating what procedures will be followed and what exactly has to be done up until the day the base is completely returned; and, when that time arrives, how we should tackle the next step — that is, the development of Futenma, the diversion of returned land. Therefore, I believe that the Okinawan people will be happy about this. However, for this to become reality, we need to bear greater responsibility and make further efforts. That is something that can be solved only if the state and the prefectural government take concerted action.

[Unidentified reporter] I would like to pose a question to Ambassador Mondale. In the process of the latest negotiations between Japan and the United States, we have been told that there would be considerable difficulty in having Futenma base returned. What is the biggest reason the United States decided to return Futenma base? Also, in regard to the issue of maintaining troop level in East Asia at its current level, you said the United States would be able to do this. Is the United States not considering any future troop reductions in line with the return of Futenma base at all?

[Mondale] This plan does not assume any reduction in force levels or any reduction or degradation in the capacity or readiness of American forces to do what is required under our treaty. What we did was to... [pauses] the fact... [pauses] number one, what can we do to reduce irritations, reduce the space we use up, and in other ways meet the concerns expressed by Okinawans. To become better neighbors, we thought that was a legitimate plea, and we tried to respond to it. The second thing we did was... [pauses] began with the commitment that, however we met those needs, it could not degrade or reduce our capacity to do our job. General Meyers and others from our armed forces tell us, that with this plan, American capacities in Okinawa and in Japan are fully capable, and they can manage efficiently and effectively within this new plan. So, we feel that we've achieved that result. Why Futenma? Because, as we got into the work of the special committee, it became clear in listening to the voices from Okinawa, in our experts looking at the facilities and seeing the obtrusiveness of Futenma, located as it is within a large community, that if we were going to effectively deal with the first point I talked about — trying to deal with the problems in Okinawa — we had to deal with Futenma. And that's what the prime minister asked us to do in Santa Monica. And so, the joint committee, everybody engaged, went to work to determine what we could do to bring this about. And we discovered we could do it in these ways, and I think that this is being well-received. The prime minister was kind enough to permit me to talk to Governor Ota after he talked with him. The governor's response I thought was very supportive. And we're going to send his schedule... [pauses] ah, Consul General O'Neal, General Rollings, and others to visit him and answer his questions about these proposals and the report to be made from the SAC committee in a few days.

[Dean of Press Corps] I would like to ask Prime Minister Hashimoto — concerning the idea of relocating various functions of U.S. military bases in Okinawa to other places in mainland Japan, there is great opposition from residents in areas selected for alternative sites.

How do you intend to tackle this domestic coordination henceforth?

[Hashimoto] In fact, I have already received various opinions. We have to make the utmost effort to obtain the understanding of local residents who will be asked to bear new burden. This is all that I can say today. However, should the Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma have been left untouched? Although we hope to maintain stability in the Asia-Pacific region and ask U.S. forces' support to ensure security of Japan, should the Okinawan people continue to bear the consequent burdens? I do not believe this is public opinion. Although we just announced the decision on Futenma, the SACO [Special Action Committee on Okinawa] will announce an interim report on progress in its discussions on 15 April. We will have to take great responsibility for commitments to be made in the interim report. As a matter of course, we have to consult local residents, who will be asked to bear new burdens, as to how the government is able to persuade them to accept the burden. We have to make the request and solve the issue in the future. However, I am greatly relieved at present because we have, at least, paved the way for solving one of the burdens that the Okinawan people have long borne, through our utmost efforts. I earnestly hope that the people concerned and residents in various places share my view on this issue.

[Unidentified reporter] For the prime minister. The Japan-U.S. summit meeting is to be held next week. I think that the return of the Futenma MCAS owes a great deal to President Clinton's decision. In contrast with this, it is expected that you will be urged to make decisions on economic issues during the summit meeting. What do you think about this?

[Hashimoto] Why did you bring up such a dangerous subject? [laughter] In recent days, Ambassador Mondale has frankly presented to us problems with the United States, in parallel with Okinawa base issues, including the Futenma issue. I also have made sincere efforts to respond to these points. However, I believe that the both sides need to make compromises when they discuss domestic economic issues. Our faces clearly indicate that, at least, the two countries are not in the same tense situation as in the automobile talks last year.

[Unidentified reporter] I would like to pose a question to Ambassador Mondale. How do you evaluate Prime Minister Hashimoto's leadership in the current negotiations? Could you comment in detail if possible?

[Hashimoto] I do not think he has much to say.

[Mondale, in English] Well, we had to work together with the President and the prime minister on one

of the toughest issues to confront our relationship in a long time. And, it involves some very deep and tough decisions on both sides in order to respond to the considerations that I have described earlier. The prime minister was energetically engaged as was his government, all members of the special action committee. And we have been able to move swiftly, and he has been at the forefront of this...[pauses] the resolution is effort from the very beginning [sentence as heard].

[Hashimoto] I think it is time to finish. thank you very much.

[Unidentified reporter] For the prime minister. Could you answer one last question? How did the figure of the five-to-seven years come about?

[Hashimoto] For instance, our agreement makes it a condition that some functions of the MCAS Futenma — for example, heliports — will be built at other bases in Okinawa. At first, we have to choose appropriate alternative sites, conduct an environmental assessment of the places, and execute necessary construction work. In parallel with these procedures, as a matter of course, the national and prefectural governments have to cooperate in working out a program for using returned land in preparation for the complete return of the MCAS Futenma. Such a process might be completed within the next five years if things go well. However, there is a possibility, for example, that there would be a problem with the environmental assessment of the first alternative site for MCSA's heliports, and we would have to look for another candidate site. Considering this, I thought there should be some "allowance." However, as I told earlier, nothing can be better than for the five-year period to be shortened through concerted efforts by the national and prefectural governments. All these things depend on how we make preparations so that our efforts will quickly reach the ultimate goal.

Japan: Cabinet Approves Military Goods, Services Pact With U.S.

OW1504015396 Tokyo KYODO in English
0140 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's cabinet approved Monday [15 April] an agreement between Japan and the United States on mutual supply of military goods and services, government officials said.

Japan's Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale will sign the pact later in the day, the officials said.

The so-called Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) is limited to peacetime joint exercises and UN peacekeeping operations, and does not cover emergency situations.

The U.S. signed similar agreements with 19 other countries and two organizations, but most cover mutual supply of goods and services in the event of emergencies.

The bilateral pact also will not be applied to U.S. military drills, because that could run counter to Japan's constitutional ban on the implementation of the right of collective defense.

The government will submit to the Diet a bill to revise the Self-Defense Forces Law and other bills needed for the ACSA pact in late April.

The U.S. first proposed the bilateral agreement in 1988. Last May, then Japanese Defense Agency chief Tokuchiro Tamazawa accepted the U.S. proposal when he visited Washington.

The ACSA also stipulates payment for goods and services, excluding ammunition, provided during joint drills and peacekeeping operations.

Exports of military goods under the accord will be exempted from the government's principles prohibiting weapons exports.

International Trade and Industry Minister Shumpei Tsukahara said the ministry will exercise adequate control of the exports under the ACSA.

Japan: Party Members Discuss SDF, Other Security Issues

OW1404064296 Tokyo KYODO in English
0614 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO — Political parties could regroup around the security issue, a senior member of the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) said Sunday [14 April].

"A political realignment regrouping those who share the same view (on security) is possible," Kazuo Aichi, chairman of the party's Policy Research Council, said on TV programs.

Aichi said the government should change its traditional interpretation of the constitution to pave the way for the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to participate in collective defense arrangements.

Aichi, a former Defense Agency director general, also said Japan should establish a system to prepare for possible emergencies in the Far East.

He noted that the current coalition government is unable to discuss these issues because it includes the Social Democratic Party.

Meanwhile, Yukio Hatoyama, secretary general of New Party Sakigake [Harbinger], the smallest bloc in the three-party coalition, said on a TV program Sunday that the government should review its constitutional interpretation on the right of collective defense in connection with emergencies in the far east.

"There will be a threat to Japan directly or indirectly in case of an emergency in the far east. I doubt whether Japan would be allowed to do nothing while the U.S. forces take action," he said.

Last Sunday, Shinshinto leader Ichiro Ozawa expressed support for the right of collective defense by the SDF.

The U.N. charter recognizes the right but the government maintains it is unconstitutional for the SDF to exercise that right.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who is leader of the liberal democratic party, the largest force in the coalition, announced Friday that Japan and the United States will jointly study use by U.S. forces of military and civilian facilities in Japan in times of emergency.

Hashimoto made the announcement at the same time the two countries unveiled plans to return the Futenma Marine Corps Airfield in Okinawa prefecture to local landowners in five to seven years.

Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda said on a TV program Sunday that there are many things Japan can do to support U.S. forces in times of emergency without contravening the ban on the right of collective defense.

Japan: Perry Calls Summit 'Most Significant' Since Cold War

*OW1504075296 Tokyo KYODO in English
0730 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry called Monday's [15 April] signing of a Japan-U.S. pact on the mutual supply of military goods and services a "small but significant step" for cooperation between Japan's Self-Defense Forces and U.S. forces.

The bilateral agreement, known as the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), will help the two countries to cooperate more effectively to pursue peace, Perry said, noting that the pact is not to be applied to war or weapons.

Wednesday's meeting between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto "will be the

most significant summit since the end of the Cold War," Perry said.

It will follow the signing of the ACSA and Monday's endorsement of the realignment and reduction of U.S. military bases in Okinawa Prefecture, he said.

Perry made the remarks at a Tokyo hotel press conference with Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, Defense Agency Director General Hideo Usui and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale.

Ikeda told the same press conference that during Monday's meeting in Tokyo preparations were almost completed for the summit.

They also discussed a Hashimoto-Clinton joint declaration to be issued Wednesday for reaffirming the bilateral security arrangement, the foreign minister said.

In a separate press conference at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, Perry said the joint statement will reaffirm the need to maintain the current 100,000 level of U.S. troops in East Asia.

Asked why the size of forces is not to be reduced despite growing anti-U.S. military sentiment in Okinawa Prefecture, Perry said U.S. troops in Japan and South Korea maintain a forward presence at the request of the Japanese and South Korean Governments and are necessary to secure peace in the region.

They also discussed regional security issues including China and the Korean peninsula, Perry said.

In the morning, Perry and Usui agreed to launch soon a study group to discuss the 1978 guidelines on Japan-U.S. defense cooperation with a view to establishing a framework for bilateral cooperation in regional emergencies, Japanese officials said.

A panel of experts will submit the contents of their discussion to this fall's meeting of a Japan-U.S. committee on security, which includes the two countries' foreign and defense ministers, they said.

The Japanese side proposed that the two countries study bilateral cooperation in the case of disasters, U.N. peacekeeping operations, humanitarian assistance and transportation of overseas Japanese during emergencies.

Tokyo also made overtures to discuss the feasibility of a broader range of bilateral defense cooperation, including exchanges of equipment and technology, and cooperation for regional security dialogue such as in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations regional forum.

The U.S. side accepted these proposals, while reiterating calls for Japan to join its Theater Missile Defense initiatives, according to Japanese officials.

In a session Monday of the House of Councillors Budget Committee, Hashimoto called for studying the legal framework for Japan-U.S. joint operations in emergencies near Japan.

Serious considerations of the legal aspects of "the operational procedure that Japan can follow" in such cases is long overdue, Hashimoto said, noting that no preparations have been made for the rescue of Japanese residents or tourists overseas.

Perry arrived in Tokyo on Sunday for a two-day visit to discuss Japan-U.S. security issues, including the consolidation of U.S. military bases in the southernmost prefecture of Okinawa.

On Sunday, Perry, Ikeda and Usui agreed on establishing the study team. One step to be considered is the use of Japanese civil airports by U.S. forces, Japanese officials said.

In a meeting Sunday, Hashimoto and Perry agreed to study how Japan and the U.S. could cooperate in regional emergencies.

Hashimoto thanked the United States for its efforts to reach an agreement on the return of the Futenma airfield in Okinawa over the next five to seven years.

The Futenma base has been at the center of the controversy over how to consolidate and reduce U.S. bases in Okinawa Prefecture because it is located in a densely populated area. Local residents often complain about noise from the base.

Tokyo, Washington Unveil Plan for 20-Percent Base Cuts

OW1504104596 Tokyo KYODO in English
1007 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — Japan and the United States formally agreed Monday [15 April] to strive to reduce more than one-fifth of the land occupied by U.S. military bases in Okinawa Prefecture with the return of a key airfield within five to seven years as its centerpiece.

In its interim report, a special bilateral committee on U.S. bases in Okinawa unveiled a set of measures to "reduce the burden on the people of Okinawa" in response to local residents' calls for retrenchment of the huge U.S. military presence in Japan's southernmost prefecture.

The sentiment has especially grown in Okinawa since last September, when a local elementary schoolgirl was abducted and raped by three American servicemen, who have been sentenced to prison terms.

The highlight of the midterm report, which is the result of six months' work by the special panel and was adopted at Monday's meeting of top Japanese and U.S. officials in charge of foreign and defense affairs, is an accord to return property used by the Futenma air station to local landowners.

The reversion of the Futenma base has been at the center of bilateral negotiations on how to realign, consolidate and scale down U.S. military facilities and sites in Okinawa, about 1,600 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, prior to U.S. President Bill Clinton's three-day state visit to Japan starting Tuesday.

About 75 percent of all land used by the U.S. military in Japan is concentrated in Okinawa, although the island prefecture makes up only 0.6 percent of Japan's total land area.

To set the stage for its return, the functions of the Futenma airfield will be transferred to other U.S. bases in Japan over the five to seven years, the report says.

On the other hand, due heed will be paid to the maintenance of U.S. capabilities and readiness to ensure peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, it says.

A new heliport will be built in an existing U.S. base in Okinawa, and additional installations will be constructed at the U.S. Kadena Air Base, north of the Futenma base.

Also, more than a dozen in-flight refueling planes are to be transferred to the Iwakuni air base in Yamaguchi Prefecture, western Japan, and about the same number of AV-8 Harrier attack aircraft will be relocated from Iwakuni to the U.S. mainland.

As another prerequisite for the return of the Futenma base, the report says, Tokyo and Washington will jointly study the U.S. Forces' use of military and civil facilities in Japan in case of emergencies.

The interim report, a final version of which will be issued in November, also contains cutbacks at 10 locations, such as the 7,800-hectare Northern Training Area, which is the largest U.S. military facility in Okinawa, the Sobe Communications Site, Camp Kuwae and Camp Zukeran.

"These measures, when implemented, will reduce the impact of the activities of U.S. forces on communities in Okinawa, while fully maintaining the capabilities and readiness of U.S. forces in Japan," it says. "The total acreage of U.S. facilities and areas in Okinawa is estimated to decrease by approximately 20 percent."

In Monday's ministerial meeting, however, Tokyo and Washington agreed to make further efforts toward this fall so that they can pledge in the final report to decrease

the total area of U.S. facilities in Okinawa by more than 20 percent, a Foreign Ministry official said.

The report also reiterates that a bilateral accord to reduce noise at the Futenma and Kadena bases will be implemented as previously agreed upon by the two nations.

Under the agreement, both flight and ground operations at the two air stations will be limited as much as possible from 10 P.M. to 6 A.M. in line with restrictions applied at the Atsugi and Yokota air bases near Tokyo.

Another step included in the report is reaffirmation that the U.S. will discontinue military training hikes conducted off its bases and facilities in Okinawa as part of efforts to ease the security burden placed upon the prefecture.

Instead, U.S. troops are now supposed to conduct training hikes within their facilities and sites except in emergency cases.

Also Monday, Japan and the U.S. signed a pact on mutual supply of military goods and services to enhance security cooperation in the post-cold war era.

The accord, known as the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), covers 15 items or services Japan would offer the U.S. military in the course of joint training, such as food, water, fuel, clothing, spare parts and components, transportation, repair and maintenance.

In a joint news conference with Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda and Defense Agency Chief Hideo Usui in Tokyo, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry portrayed the signing of agreement as a "small but significant step" for mutual security cooperation.

He also said Wednesday's summit between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and President Clinton "will be the most significant summit since the end of the Cold War."

Earlier in the day, Perry and Usui agreed the countries will shortly launch a study group to review the 1978 guidelines on Japan-U.S. defense cooperation and establish a new framework for bilateral cooperation in regional contingencies.

Japan: Perry Says U.S. To Cut Asia Troops if Koreans Reunite

OW1504081096 Hong Kong AFP in English
0744 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 (AFP) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry reportedly said Monday [15 April] the United States would review the

number of troops stationed in East Asia if South Korea and North Korea achieved peaceful unification.

"The U.S. military will revise its troops and military arrangements in East Asia if the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula is realised," JJI PRESS quoted Perry as telling a group of Japanese reporters in Tokyo.

At a news conference later in the day, however, Perry made no remarks on a possible troop cut in the region.

He rather said the United States and Japan would reaffirm "the need of maintaining the U.S. troop strength of about 100,000 in the Asia-Pacific region."

The commitment will be spelled out in a joint declaration to be signed by President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto here Wednesday, Perry said.

The United States has more than 47,000 troops stationed in Japan and 38,000 troops in South Korea.

The defense secretary, scheduled to fly to South Korea later Monday for the arrival of Clinton, was speaking after approving plans to return 20 percent of the land occupied by the U.S. military on the Japanese island of Okinawa.

But he said the United States would not reduce the number of its troops in Japan or Okinawa.

On North Korea's armed incursion last week into the demilitarised zone on the border with South Korea, Perry said it was "political" and "not military," and was not leading to any military conflict.

He said the move was "intended to try to force the United States into a bilateral meeting with North Koreans" for the conclusion of a peace agreement to end the armistice of the 1950-1953 Korean war while sidelining South Koreans.

"The provocation will not be successful," he said.

Perry said Clinton and South Korean President Kim Yong-sam would reaffirm at their meeting on the South Korean island of Cheju on Tuesday that a peace agreement on the Korean Peninsula has to be made "between the two principle parties — the North and the South."

Japan: Interim Report Issued on U.S. Base Reductions on Okinawa

OW1504045796 Tokyo KYODO in English
0443 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — Japan and the United States charted the course Monday [15 April] for realignment and reduction of U.S. military

bases in Okinawa Prefecture with the return of a key airfield within five to seven years as its centerpiece.

The area of land used by U.S. Forces in Okinawa will be reduced by about a fifth, said a report released by the two sides.

In its interim report, a special bilateral committee on U.S. bases in Okinawa unveiled a set of measures to "reduce the burden on the people of Okinawa" in response to local residents' calls for reduction of the huge U.S. military presence in Japan's southernmost prefecture.

The sentiment has especially grown since last September, when an elementary schoolgirl was abducted and raped by three American servicemen, who have been sentenced to prison terms.

The highlight of the midterm report, which is the result of six months of work by the special action committee, is an accord to return property used by the Futenma air station to local landowners.

The return of the Futenma base has been at the center of bilateral negotiations on how to realign, consolidate and scale down U.S. military facilities and sites in Okinawa, about 1,600 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, prior to U.S. President Bill Clinton's three-day state visit to Japan starting Tuesday.

To set the stage for its reversion, the functions of the Futenma air station will be transferred to other U.S. bases in Japan over the five to seven years.

On the other hand, due heed will be paid to the maintenance of U.S. capabilities and readiness to ensure peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

A new heliport will be built in an existing U.S. base in Okinawa, and additional installations will be constructed at the U.S. Kadena Air Base, north of the Futenma base.

Also, more than a dozen in-flight refueling planes are to be transferred to the Iwakuni Air Base in Yamaguchi Prefecture, western Japan, and about the same number of AV-8 Harrier attack jets will be relocated from Iwakuni to the U.S. mainland.

As another condition for the return of the Futenma base, Tokyo and Washington will jointly study the U.S. Forces' use of military and civil facilities in Japan in case of emergencies.

The interim report, a final version of which will be issued in November, also includes cutbacks at about 10 locations, including the 7,800-hectare northern training area, which is the largest U.S. base in Okinawa, the Sobe communications site and Camp Kuwae [Lester].

"These measures, when implemented, will reduce the impact of the activities of U.S. Forces on communities in Okinawa, while fully maintaining the capabilities and readiness of U.S. Forces in Japan," the report says. "The total acreage of U.S. facilities and areas in Okinawa is estimated to decrease by approximately 20 percent."

About 75 percent of all land used by the U.S. military in Japan is concentrated in Okinawa, although the island prefecture makes up only 0.6 percent of Japan's total area.

The report also reiterates a bilateral accord to reduce noise from the Futenma and Kadena bases will be implemented as previously agreed upon by the two nations.

Under the agreement, both flight and ground operations at the two air stations will be limited as much as possible from 10 P.M. to 6 A.M., in line with restrictions applied at the Atsugi and Yokota air bases near Tokyo.

In a session of the House of Councillors Budget Committee, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto called for cooperation by local governments and communities that will be asked to accept relocation of part of the functions of the Futenma air base.

The premier said he decided on the agreement over the return of the air base "in hope that Japan will play a role in securing peace and stability in the entire Asia-Pacific region."

"I believe we will have to obtain cooperation by local residents around other U.S. bases."

"Without help by local governments concerned, the U.S. intention to return the entire air base will not materialize," he said.

In a related development, Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota said the prefectural government has no plan to make efforts to seek cooperation from local governments and communities that will be asked to accept relocation of part of the functions of Futenma air base.

Ota told a regular press conference that such requests for cooperation are "primarily a problem for the central government," although he said he is willing to lend a helping hand to the Tokyo government where possible.

Ota also made clear he will not change, at least for the present, his stance of refusing to sign documents necessary for continued forced rental of land for U.S. bases in Okinawa.

"I don't want to link the issue directly with the base cutback problems," he said.

"The legal issue is in a different sphere," he said.

In Monday's ministerial talks, Japan and the U.S. agreed the two countries will make further efforts so that they can pledge in the final report to decrease the total area of U.S. facilities in Okinawa by more than 20 percent, a Foreign Ministry official said.

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry cited the need to come up with additional measures to consolidate and reduce U.S. installations on the island by the time the final paper is released, the official said.

Perry also said Tokyo and Washington should try their best to steadily implement measures included in the interim report.

Japan: 'Gist' of Report on Scaling Down U.S. Bases in Okinawa

*OW1504044396 Tokyo KYODO in English
0428 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — The following is the gist of a bilateral interim report on scaling down U.S. military bases in Japan's southernmost prefecture of Okinawa, released Monday [15 April].

— The total acreage occupied by U.S. facilities and areas in Okinawa is estimated to decrease by approximately 20 percent.

— Futenma air station to be returned within the next five to seven years. Transfer of KC-130 Hercules aircraft to Iwakuni Air Base and AV-8 Harrier aircraft to the United States. A joint U.S.-Japan study on emergency use of facilities in the event of a crisis.

— Sobe communications site to be returned once a new site is constructed at Camp Hansen (central training area) in the next five years.

— Accelerate return of Naha Port.

— Return major portion of northern training area, Gimbaru training area, Yomitan auxiliary airfield, most of Camp Kuwae (Lester), Senaha communication station and portions of Makiminato service area. Accelerate return of Naha Port.

— Terminate artillery live-fire training over prefectural Highway 104. Relocate parachute drop training to Iejima island. Terminate military hikes on public roads in Okinawa.

— Improve Status of Forces Agreement procedures.

Japan: Kadena Assembly To Vote Against Futenma Base Relocation

*OW1504113296 Tokyo KYODO in English
GMT 15 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, April 15 KYODO — The Kadena Town Assembly in Okinawa Prefecture will adopt a resolution Tuesday [15 April] opposing the relocation of some troops and equipment from the Futenma base to the Kadena base, assembly members said Monday.

They said the decision was made at an emergency meeting of the town assembly's special committee on base issues because committee members are concerned about more noise and disruption from the relocation.

The resolution takes issue with a Japan-U.S. agreement last week on the return of the Futenma base to local landowners on condition that troops and equipment are relocated to the Kadena base and the Iwakuni base in Yamaguchi Prefecture, western Japan.

The town of Kadena is scheduled to convene a meeting of town residents late this week to protest against the planned relocation, town officials said.

Residents in Iwakuni have already opposed the relocation, demanding that the Futenma base be closed unconditionally and the Iwakuni base be shut down immediately.

Although the island of Okinawa accounts for less than 1 percent of Japan's total land area, some 75 percent of all the land in Japan reserved for U.S. military use is located there, as well as about half of the 47,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan.

Resentment among Okinawa people against the U.S. military presence has grown since last September when a 12-year-old schoolgirl was raped by three U.S. servicemen, who received prison terms for the crime.

Japan: Mayor Notes Objections To Relocating Futenma Operations

*OW1504131496 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese
15 Apr 96 Evening Edition p 7*

[Comments by Tokujitsu Miyagi, mayor of Kadena Township]

[FBIS Translated Text] I praise the decision to reduce the total area occupied by U.S. military bases by 20 percent and the complete return of Futenma base. However, I disapprove of the relocation of Futenma base functions to Kadena Air Base. That would lead to Kadena Air Base being permanently fixed. Considering our town's future, that would also force a serious

burden upon us. We plan to hold a mass rally by the townspeople and lodge strong protests.

Japan: Prefectural Government Reacts Calmly to Base Return Plans

OW1504141096 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO
in Japanese 15 Apr 96 Evening Edition p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] The Okinawa Prefectural Government's Military Base Affairs Office [MBAO] and the International Cities Formation Promotion Office [ICFPO] have reacted calmly to the 15 April compilation of an interim report on plans to return military bases on Okinawa. As the prefectural government had already received this information in advance, the MBAO and the ICFPO are nonchalantly continuing their normal duties. One employee at the MBAO said: "This is what we expected to a certain degree, but we are going to be very busy now as the area to be returned this time is comparable to the total area of land returned since Okinawa's reversion to Japan [in 1972]." Another employee at the ICFPO said: "We have been making preparations toward a smooth promotion of plans to divert returned land to other uses so that landowners will not have any problems when they get their land back." The MBAO and ICFPO maintain that they now intend "to listen to the central government's explanation of details of the plans on the return of military bases and then promptly devise concrete plans for diverting returned land to other uses on an individual basis in line with the international cities formation and improvement project promoted by the prefectural government."

Meanwhile, the prefectural government says: "As they have come up with a plan to return a considerable amount of land, it will be absolutely necessary for the central government to provide financial support. The prefectural government, for its part, intends to urge the central government to not only spell out plans on returning military bases, but to also create a special system under which the latter can provide financial support to municipal governments where military bases are located so that they can promote plans to divert returned land to other uses."

Japan: Ie Village Officials Oppose Sobe Facility Relocation Plan

OW1304003596 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese
12 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 27

[FBIS Translated Text] The Japanese and the U.S. Governments have agreed to relocate the Sobe Communications Facility (known as the elephant's cage) in Yomitan Village to the Ie Island Auxiliary Airfield. In regard to this agreement, Ie island authorities on 11 April confirmed their stance, stating that "no more actions to

strengthen the base presence will be tolerated." The authorities will visit the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau [DFAB] on the afternoon of 12 April to confirm the facts and convey their opposition to the relocation plan.

On 11 April, after hearing news of the relocation plan during his stay in Naha City, Ie Village Mayor Seitoku Shimabukuro attempted to directly visit the DFAB. However, since the DFAB official in charge of the issue was away on a business trip, Shimabukuro had to go back to Ie Island. After holding an urgent meeting at the village office, Shimabukuro and other village officials confirmed their "opposition to the relocation plan."

Mayor Shimabukuro said perplexedly: "It came upon us like a thunderbolt. I will visit the DFAB on 12 April with village assembly members, and we will officially inform them of our stance, and also question them on the truth of the matter."

Ie Village has frequently been brought up as a possible site for proposed relocation of base facilities in Okinawa, including the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. With regard to this, Shimabukuro showed mixed feelings and said: "Reports that came out in the past were nothing but rumors. Since the Japan-U.S. Security Consultation Committee (Two Plus Two), (in which the relocation site will be officially decided), will be held soon.... I hope that the latest report will also be a mere rumor. I assume that the idea to relocate the Sobe Facility to the Ie Island Auxiliary Airfield has come up merely because the Ie Island Airfield fulfills requirements as a communications facility."

Japan: Yomitan Mayor Objects to 'Conditional' Return of Facilities

OW1504134096 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO
in Japanese 15 Apr 96 Evening Edition p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Yomitan — Japan and the United States have agreed to return U.S communications facilities in Sobe (with an area of 53 hectares) and Senaha (with an area of 61 hectares) on condition that they be relocated to other sites, according to an interim report by the Special Action Committee for Okinawa.

Local Yomitan residents are now voicing their strong objections to this, noting that: "They are just giving us the runaround with respect to the military bases. They are trying to get Okinawan people and the villagers to fight among themselves."

Yomitan Mayor Tokushin Yamauchi points out: "For all we have been through, we are not happy with just a conditional return of the facilities. What we, the Okinawan people and the villagers, want is a complete

return. Otherwise, this will not lead to a fundamental resolution of the Okinawa base issues. A major portion of the land to be returned cannot be used freely by the Okinawan people as it belongs to the state. What the Japanese and U.S. Governments are doing is merely playing with numbers from an authoritarian standpoint."

The mayor was expressing his resentment at an agreement the Japanese and U.S. Government made in a manner that ignores the wishes of the local residents.

One of the owners of the land housing the Sobe Communications Facility (commonly called the elephant cage), where a plot remains under illegal occupation, said: "They talk about complete return, but what are they going to do about diverting returned land to other uses? We senior citizens have no other source of revenue; we live on land rental fees. We want the central and the prefectural governments to show us concrete plans for diverting returned land to other uses."

Japan: Mayor Objects to Conditional Return of Makiminato Area

OW1504152096 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO
in Japanese 15 Apr 96 Evening Edition p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Urasoe — Seiko Gibo, mayor of Urasoe City, commented on an agreement reached between Japan and the United States on the partial return of the Makiminato Service Area. While clarifying that he has "not heard any details," Gibo said: "It has already been agreed in the past that portions of the Makiminato Service Area would be returned, so I welcome that. The city, for its part, seeks complete return of the base. However, I disapprove of the return if it involves our accepting the relocation of Naha Military Port as a condition."

The mayor added: "We finally worked out plans for diverting returned land to other uses and were just in the midst of adjusting the schedule for holding a meeting with landowners and Urasoe residents. We cannot tolerate the Japanese and U.S. Governments' proceeding with their plans in a manner that ignores the will of the local residents and bypasses us."

Japan: Rallies Held Against U.S. Bases

OW1404101796 Tokyo KYODO in English
1008 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO — Days ahead of a visit by U.S. President Bill Clinton, nearly 6,000 citizens staged rallies in Tokyo and elsewhere Sunday [14 April], demanding the closure of U.S. bases in Japan, including those in the southern island prefecture of Okinawa.

"When the President comes, let's insist that Japan does not need U.S. bases," said Seishin Uehara, chief of a group of anti-U.S. base Okinawa landowners living in the Tokyo metropolitan area, in a speech to a rally in the capital, attended by some 600 people.

The rally and other gatherings came two days after a Japan-U.S. agreement on the return of a major U.S. airfield in Okinawa Prefecture to local landowners within the next five to seven years on condition that the troops and equipment are relocated to another base in the island prefecture and the Iwakuni Airfield in Yamaguchi Prefecture, western Japan.

Yukio Gibo, a former chief of a group of antiwar landowners in Okinawa Prefecture, criticized the agreement on the return of the Futenma Airfield for involving the relocation of related troops and equipment to other parts of Japan.

"This (the return of the airfield) should be resolved by bringing the burden, pain and sacrifice of Okinawa to the United States," Gibo told the rally.

Separately, some 200 people staged a rally elsewhere in Tokyo to protest Clinton's three-day visit starting Tuesday and a government move to redefine the Japan-U.S. security alliance.

In Iwakuni, some 4,000 local residents and labor union members rallied to protest the relocation of an airborne refueling squadron from Futenma to Iwakuni under the Japan-U.S. agreement.

Chuji Chinen, a member of the municipal assembly of Ginowan, where the Futenma Airfield is located, said in a speech at the rally that the closure of the airfield should be unconditional.

"I'm happy with the return (of the Futenma base to local landowners), but the relocation of the squadron to Iwakuni is intolerable. It should be returned unconditionally," Chinen said.

Kanji Nagao, a 71-year-old former elementary school principal who was passing near the rally site, said the Iwakuni Air Base should be closed immediately.

"The development of the city of Iwakuni has been stalled because the base makes it difficult to build a key highway. The base should be shut down immediately," Nagao said.

In Kusu, Oita Prefecture, southwestern Japan, some 1,100 townspeople attended a meeting to oppose the proposed relocation of a U.S. live-fire exercise field in Okinawa to their town.

Guest speaker Akira Nakane, deputy chairman of the Okinawan Prefectural Assembly, called for solidarity

among the general public to stop U.S. military drills and close U.S. bases.

"The cancellation of U.S. military drills and the closure of U.S. bases cannot be accomplished unless the general public joins hands in lining up for them," Nakane said.

Okinawa Prefecture is home to about 75 percent of U.S. military facilities and about half of the 47,000 U.S. troops stationed under the bilateral security pact, although it accounts for less than 1 percent of Japan's total land area.

Japan: Editorial Views Relocation of Okinawa Facility, Base Issues

OW1504034896 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO
in Japanese 12 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Why Suddenly Relocate Facility to Iejima?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now the Japan-U.S. summit talks are only five days away, things are becoming more restless than ever over the issue of military bases on Okinawa. A meeting of the Japan-U.S. Special Action Committee on Okinawa [SACO] is scheduled be held on 15 April and negotiations between the Japanese and U.S. governments are entering the final stage to pave the way for the meeting. So far, both countries have managed to form an outline for reorganization and reduction of the military bases, including relocation of live-fire artillery training over prefectural Highway 104, and return of half the land at the Northern Training Area to landowners.

Of late, Japan and the United States have agreed to return land used for the Sobe Communications Facility [SCF] (known as the Elephant Cage) to its owners on the condition that the facility be relocated to Iejima auxiliary airfield. This agreement will be announced as an interim report at SACO's 15 April meeting.

As for the SCF, a Japan-U.S. joint committee confirmed in May, 1995, to "continuously study the possibility of relocating it to other existing facilities." After that, Iejima became one of the proposed sites for relocation. However, the local residents were surprised when the issue of moving the facility to Iejima suddenly became a topic of discussion on the eve of the Japan-U.S. summit talks.

There is a proposal to move the SCF, where the terms of the lease for a portion of the land has expired, to Camp Hansen in the central region, and other facilities. But we have to wait until SACO holds its 15 April meeting before we know whether or not Iejima will be the final choice for relocation. However, we just cannot understand why discussions on relocation of military

facilities are being promoted between the Japanese and U.S. governments without prior consultations with Okinawa; the same thing can be said about return of the Northern Training Area and relocation of the SCF.

So far, the prefectural government as well as other organizations in Okinawa have been demanding the central government reflect the voices of the Okinawan people in return or relocation of military bases. Judging from the contents of negotiation reports which have recently been disclosed, we cannot help but think that the Japanese and U.S. governments have been promoting the negotiations to suit their own ends without giving thorough consideration to our demands.

The prefectural government, too, announced its view, saying: "On the basis of progress being made in mapping out measures for the prefectural government's land utilization plan, Okinawa must take the lead in promoting negotiations for return of the bases. Also, the base land must be returned to landowners on the basis of the design of the prefectural people's life [seikatsusekkei]. We agree with the prefectural government. We understand that governmental negotiations for reorganization and reduction of military bases are accompanied by difficulties. However, the problem is that negotiations are being promoted without telling the people in Okinawa which bases will be returned or where they will be relocated.

As we look back, we note that the peace agreement was signed without listening to the intentions of Okinawans at all. It was an agreement designed to ignore [kirihanasu] the administrative power of Okinawa, too. Moreover, Okinawan voices were not reflected in the agreement on the reversion of Okinawa. It is undeniable that these facts are the causes of the base problems that we face today. We cannot ignore the fact that the same process was adopted for the recent discussions over the base issues.

People in Iejima are saying that the news regarding relocation of the SCF to their island was a great surprise to them. However, relocation itself within this small prefecture can neither be justified nor become a fundamental settlement of the base issue. As we have said repeatedly, the cheap trick of reducing the size of the base land or the number of facilities for the sake of base reduction cannot settle the base issue in Okinawa. We just cannot accept such a method. The central government should understand the true feelings of the people in Okinawa.

Japan: Editorial Views Return of MCAS Futenma

OW1504044496 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 14 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 3

[Editorial: "Stabilize Japan-U.S. Security Ties by Returning 'Futenma' Air Station — For New Japan-U.S. Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "Okinawa" issue, which had been the biggest immediate source of apprehension stemming from the Japan-U.S. bilateral security arrangement, has made a great step forward on the eve of a summit between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The U.S. Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma (in Ginowan city) has stood as a symbol of the demands for streamlining and reduction of U.S. military bases in Okinawa, and it has been decided that this base will be completely returned to local landowners over the next five to seven years. It is an unprecedented decision.

At the same time, Japan and the United States have also agreed to launch a joint study on letting U.S. forces stationed in Japan [USFJ] use Japanese airports and Self-Defense Forces bases in case of emergency.

We welcome both agreements as extremely important political decisions made to further stabilize and firmly maintain the Japan-U.S. security system.

Reduction of USFJ Capabilities Be Avoided

In particular, MCAS Futenma is a key strategic base in the Forward Deployment Strategy of the U.S. Marine Corps [USMC]. Considering such instability factors in the Asia-Pacific region as the unpredictable situation on the Korean peninsula and tensions between China and Taiwan, the U.S. military naturally wanted to retain this important operational base.

But a series of problems arising from the military bases in Okinawa, including the rape of a 12-year-old girl by three U.S. servicemen last September, has aroused rage among Okinawans.

Overriding opposition from the U.S. military, Washington agreed to return the MCAS Futenma because it wanted to do what it could to mitigate the anti-U.S. base sentiment among Okinawans. This was an unavoidable decision to smoothly "reaffirm the Japan-U.S. security setup." Many people, including Okinawans, strongly applauded Prime Minister Hashimoto, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale, and other government officials who have worked to reach the agreement.

Included in an interim report by a Japan-U.S. "Special Action Committee [SACO] on Facilities and Areas in Okinawa" to be released Monday will be the

agreement that 10 U.S. military bases in Okinawa, including MCAS Futenma, will be returned, completely or partially, to Japan. The total area of the land they encompass — estimated to reach approximately 5,000 hectares — is reportedly larger than that of all U.S. bases returned since Okinawa reverted to Japanese rule in 1972.

Naturally, when viewed by the people in the prefecture where nearly 20 percent of the main island of Okinawa is occupied by U.S. bases, this figure is still unsatisfactory. The two governments will have to endeavor to return more land by the time the final report is made in November.

But what must not be forgotten is the need to maintain the security capabilities of the U.S. forces, as we have repeatedly called for. Those capabilities must never be reduced in a hurry to streamline and reduce the U.S. bases there.

In announcing the return of MCAS Futenma, Ambassador Mondale stressed, "The United States will not reduce its capabilities and the readiness to meet security obligations under the security alliance." We believe this is quite natural. It will be necessary to promote discussions on streamlining and reducing U.S. bases in a cool-headed and realistic way.

The Okinawa base problem is particularly a domestic issue of Japan. To promote the streamlining and reduction of the U.S. military bases in Okinawa, it is indispensable for local governments both in and outside the prefecture to agree to the transfer and consolidation of U.S. bases while maintaining USFJ capabilities.

As Okinawa Prefecture hosts 75 percent of all U.S. bases in Japan, we should not continue forcing only the prefecture to shoulder this burden. While agreeing "in principle" to "the maintenance of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements," many local governments tend to suddenly raise opposition when it comes to the "specifics" of transferring base facilities to their jurisdictions. Therefore, now is the time for politicians to demonstrate their leadership. For example, Diet members and leading officials should take the lead in persuading local residents.

The progress in settling the issue of the U.S. military bases in Okinawa is certain to make it easier for Hashimoto and Clinton to "reconfirm the security arrangements" at the summit talks scheduled for 17 April. Of greater significance to the bilateral security arrangement, however, is that in return for the decision to return MCAS Futenma, a new accord has been reached on launching a joint study of the use of Japanese facilities by the U.S. forces in case of emergency.

At the upcoming summit, Hashimoto and Clinton will not only confirm that the importance of the Japan-U.S. security treaty has not changed even after the end of the Cold War, but also add a new meaning to the bilateral security system. These agreements will be made into "a joint security declaration" to be released after the summit.

Speed Up Deliberations on the Right to Collective Self-Defense

The joint declaration is expected to be to the following effect: "To cope with the Asia-Pacific region, where factors causing instability still exist even after the Cold War, Japan and the United States need to maintain and strengthen the bilateral security system through, for instance, further promotion of closer defense cooperation."

To cope with the structural changes in the world situation, the two governments will aim to shift the focus of the Japan-U.S. security setup from "emergency for Japan" — such as when Japan is invaded — to "the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region," thereby covering a broader area and eventually contributing to the security of Japan.

The planned study of the use of civil airports and other facilities by the U.S. forces is intended to provide for Japan's logistical support for the forces, which is believed to become more and more important because of the new meaning to be added to the bilateral security arrangement. Hashimoto says that "an arrangement should be reformed to meet the needs of a new age." We hope that the Hashimoto-Clinton meeting will produce an effective conclusion for that purpose.

Before their summit, Japan and the United States will sign an acquisition and cross-servicing agreement (ACSA), which provides for a mutual supply of goods and such services as transportation. A revision of the guidelines for defense cooperation between Japan and the United States will also be included in the joint declaration. The guidelines are aimed at coping with an emergency that may occur in or around Japan.

The problem with the ACSA, however, is that there will always be a limit to Japan's cooperation with the U.S. forces because it is confined to "a time of peace" or U.N. peacekeeping operations (PKO). Along with the proposed use of Japanese facilities by the U.S. forces, the ACSA issue is closely connected with the government's interpretation of the Constitution — that Japan is prohibited from "exercising the right to collective self-defense by the Constitution."

However, the question as to how much logistical support Japan can provide the U.S. forces when an emergency

occurs nearby — on the Korean peninsula, for example — concerns the foundation of the Japan-U.S. security arrangement.

In order to operate the security treaty in a smooth and effective way, it is time for us to start deliberations on the right to collective self-defense, instead of regarding it as a taboo. It should be discussed in connection with the "reconfirmation of the security setup."

We would like Hashimoto and Clinton to frankly talk about this kind of issue so that their Tokyo meeting will prove a starting point for restructuring Japan-U.S. relations to greet the 21st century. We want them to answer the question frequently asked by people both in and outside Japan: "Why is the Japan-U.S. security treaty still necessary now that the Cold War has come to an end?"

Japan: Editorial Comments on Base Return Proposals

OW1504054496 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO
in Japanese 15 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Danger of Expanding Military Cooperation: Taking an Obvious Risk"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Japan-U.S. summit will be held under the historical background of a strengthened bilateral alliance and the continued expansion of military cooperation between Japan and the United States, even though the realignment and reduction of U.S. military bases has consistently been advocated since the negotiations for Okinawa's reversion to Japanese administration.

Governor Ota and the Okinawan people are being made to "take the obvious risk." Although the complete return of Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma in five to seven years has been agreed upon, in the all-important question of the size of U.S. Forces, there will be no reduction. The return of Futenma will be on the condition of a relocation.

This means that prospects are dim with regard to the possibility of improvements in the area of damages stemming from the U.S. bases, such as criminal offenses by U.S. soldiers, as typified by the tragic incident [September rape incident]. Even with regard to the return of the bases, it will be difficult to organize a united movement, due to such factors as opposition by residents in the proposed relocation sites. Any wrong moves may even lead to the "self-destruction" of the Ota administration, which has exercised strong leadership in the movement so far.

The united movement of people from all walks of life forced the Japanese and U.S. leaders to make a decision

on the full return of MCAS Futenma and other facilities. This has boosted our self-confidence. Therefore, we should have the courage to take the risk. However, the question is how to maintain the momentum of the Okinawan people's movement to influence the Japanese and U.S. Governments in the future.

Although the number of troops is not really the "guarantee" for the Japan-U.S. security alliance, the two governments insist on 100,000 U.S. Forces in the Asia and Pacific region, and 47,000 U.S. Forces Japan, including the 29,000 stationed in Okinawa. The question is how to demolish this theoretical barrier.

Lesson From Okinawa's Reversion

The Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (Two-Plus-Two meeting) will agree on the return of around 10 U.S. military bases on 15 April, on the eve of the summit meeting between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and President Bill Clinton. At long last, we see some action pertaining to the "return of the bases," which was once thought to be impossible. This, in itself, should be appreciated.

On the other hand, the Japan-U.S. security alliance will be redefined during the summit talks. There is a danger that the existing bilateral security arrangements will be expanded to a Japan-U.S. military cooperation extending to the entire Asia and Pacific region.

To strengthen the bilateral alliance, the summit meeting will: 1) review the "Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation Guidelines" and formulate concrete measures to implement defense cooperation during an emergency in the Far East; and 2) agree to promote bilateral cooperation in UN peacekeeping operations (PKO) and other activities through the conclusion of an acquisition and cross servicing agreement (ACSA).

In case of an emergency on the Korean peninsula, the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) will provide rear support to U.S. Forces, and deal with the situation jointly. It is will probably sidestep constitutional constraints and open the way for the SDF to take action. Furthermore, arrangements will be made to allow the U.S. Forces to use not only SDF bases, but also civilian airports and port facilities in an emergency.

We must remember that Okinawa's reversion opened the way to "military cooperation" arrangements between the Japanese and U.S. Governments, featuring joint Japan-U.S. military operations with the stationing of the SDF on Okinawa, the dispatch of U.S. Forces Japan for the defense of the ROK, a tacit agreement that Japan would guarantee rear support, and an agreement that the United States reserves the right to bring nuclear weapons into Japan in an emergency.

Amid such a trend in the security policies of the governments of Japan and the United States, the return of U.S. military bases, which was promised at the time of the reversion, was not implemented, and, on the contrary, the presence of the bases has become permanent. We must not forget that with the reversion to Japanese administration, the Okinawans' movement to demand the return of bases lost momentum for a time. Over the past 24 years, we experienced numerous defeats and debacles, and learned our lessons. We must make the best use of reflections on such experiences and on the lessons we learned.

We Want the Return of Bases With a Reduction in U.S. Forces

No matter how attractively a list of U.S. bases to be returned is presented, if it is not accompanied by a reduction of U.S. Forces stationed on Okinawa, this would only be a conditional return, and the actual implementation would be difficult, like in the case of the Naha Military Port. As seen in the relocation of the live-fire exercises across the prefectural highway, nowhere in the whole of Japan is willing to accept them. The opposition is even stronger in the case of a proposed relocation site in Okinawa. Even if the relocation took place in an existing U.S. military facility, local residents in the relocation sites will certainly object because this will mean a permanent presence of bases even in the future.

During debate on proposals on the arrangements for U.S. Forces Japan, we must nullify the logic behind the need for 100,000 U.S. troops in Asia and the Pacific. The international environment has changed since the time of Okinawa's reversion. The hypothetical enemy of the Japan-U.S. security alliance, the USSR, has disintegrated. Even on the Korean peninsula, a dramatic development similar to the unification of East and West Germany can be expected. Even though the Taiwan Strait is in upheaval right now due to the PRC's missile tests, the level of tension is different from the Cold War era, when the Chinese mainland and Taiwan were firing artillery at each other.

Future changes will render the basis for stationing U.S. Forces unsustainable. We have consistently pointed out that the present size of U.S. Forces Japan is not the consequence of actual need, but simply the result of the failure to review this setup in the 50 years since the war due to the inertia on the part of the Japanese and U.S. political authorities and bureaucracy.

In fact, it would be quite sufficient for the Japanese and U.S. politicians and bureaucrats to take a look at the U.S. military bases. Without a real enemy, the soldiers

are simply engaged in boring chores and implementing training programs for the sole purpose of keeping their jobs.

The United States demands that Japan build substitute facilities to enable the return of the Futenma base. Even now, the U.S. Forces already occupy extensive land, have access to facilities quite beyond what they really need, and use training grounds the size of which are in excess of what is necessary. This is probably the result of factional mentality in the U.S. Army, Navy (Marines) and Air Force, each demanding separate facilities. If this was dealt with seriously, in line with what is taking place in the restructuring process in private companies, probably less than one-tenth of the present troop size and facilities would be quite sufficient.

Japan: Editorial Raises Questions on MCAS Futenma Return

*OW1504114696 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese
13 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 5*

[Editorial: "Return of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma is the First Step"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The accord on the overall return of Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma over the next five-to-seven years was suddenly announced at a joint news conference given by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale. The two governments should be praised for presenting us with the schedule of the return of Futenma, the centerpiece of the Okinawa Prefectural Government's request for "realignment and reduction of bases in visible form." This is the first step toward the goal of realigning and retrenching U.S. military bases on Okinawa.

However, we still have anxieties about the fact that they have reached the accord on the premise that the present capabilities and functions currently available due to the presence of MCAS Futenma will be maintained. To this end, the following steps will be taken before its return: 1) Constructing new heliports on other U.S. military bases on Okinawa; 2) Relocating some Futenma functions to Kadena Air Base [KAB]; 3) Move the air refueling tankers currently stationed on Futenma to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni; and 4) Move the Harrier fighters from Iwakuni to the mainland United States.

With the construction of new heliports and the relocation of the helicopter unit to KAB, there is some concern that the noise problem will worsen at KAB. In addition, there will be opposition to a base consolidation plan, including relocation of heliports, out of concern about

the new problems arising from it. The same can be said for the case at Iwakuni.

Actually, although the two countries agreed to return the Naha Naval Port and other facilities over 20 years ago, they have yet to achieve that due to people's opposition. In the United States, there is some thought that the presence of U.S. Marine Corps in Japan is unnecessary. A solution to this problem will be hard to find unless the two governments deal with this from the basic viewpoint of reducing U.S. military bases on Okinawa.

It is also hard for us to understand why the announcement of the return of the MCAS Futenma was made so suddenly. Hashimoto and Mondale met with each other often over recent days, and this announcement followed others that the return of MCAS Futenma was difficult. At the same time, the two governments had emphasized the significance of the Japan-U.S. security treaty and the presence of U.S. military bases on Okinawa, citing the tense situation in the Taiwan Strait and on the Korean Peninsula as the reason. They have not informed people of the developments of intergovernmental negotiations after the Hashimoto-Clinton summit in Santa Monica.

If the bilateral agreement on the return of MCAS Futenma is the political decision based on the Japanese Government's strong request, underlying Japan's such request would be the fact that the government cannot ignore the surging anti-base movement. That is nothing but Okinawans' distrust in the government's base policy in the past.

In securing land for U.S. military use, the former prime minister has filed a suit against the Okinawa governor over the proxy signing issue. In addition, the central government submitted to the Prefectural Expropriation Committee [PEC] a request for its approval for the "emergency use of land" because the government had lost the legal justification for use of part of the land for the Sobe Communications Station (commonly known as the elephant cage) in Yomitan Village. These incidents represent the government's base policy.

At its first examination held on 12 April on the "request for emergency use," the PEC decided to conduct an on-the-spot survey and to hear opinions from both the landowner and the government before making a decision. It is certain that the government's "illegal occupation" of land will be prolonged.

A similar situation could arise next year. Thus, there is the possibility that the government would be forced to "illegally occupy" land lots one after another because even if it stresses the significance of the bilateral security treaty, Okinawans hardly agree with that view.

Japan: 'Commentary' Says Futenma Return To Require Concessions on Trade

OW1504063696 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 12 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 3

["Commentary" column by Akihiko Mityamoto in Washington: "Futenma Return Agreement — Priority Given To Maintenance of Security Alliance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — The U.S. offer for a return of Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma, which has been a symbol of the bases problem of Okinawa, is closely related to moves toward the reinforcement of defense cooperation between Japan and the United States. U.S. society was shocked by Okinawa's anti-base moves triggered by U.S. servicemen's rape of an Okinawan schoolgirl in 1995, and the judgment that a settlement of Okinawa's anti-base emotions is inevitable for maintenance of the Japan-U.S. security alliance has become a dominant opinion among U.S. policymakers. On the other hand, some quarters in the U.S. Government are concerned that return of bases in Okinawa may be mistakenly regarded as a U.S. commitment to reduce its presence in the Far East. Therefore, the Japanese Government is likely to be urged to offer greater assistance to the United States to redress the lowering capability of U.S. facilities.

A source dealing with the Japan-U.S. relations noted that the return of MCAS Futenma, which was almost ready to be "postponed," was suddenly settled on the eve of President Bill Clinton's Japan visit through "tete-a-tete" negotiations between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale, who has a strong connection with the White House.

The U.S. military authorities have been against the return of MCAS Futenma as "it may trigger the Marine Corps' total withdrawal from overseas strongpoints." They have been at odds with those who insist "the operations of the Marine Corps are possible even without Futenma."

However, the moves toward a breakthrough suddenly became strong because it seemed to be more difficult to affect the opinions of the government and military authorities if they missed the chance of the presidential visit.

For the Clinton administration, the success of the presidential visit to the ROK and Japan is indispensable to demonstrate the president's successful "Asia diplomacy" in the last three years.

The Clinton administration has been putting the emphasis on domestic policies and on steering the economy, and this posture has been criticized by Republicans as a "lack of security strategies." It may be true that the

Clinton administration tried to use the Futenma accord to demonstrate the firmness of the Japan-U.S. security ties.

On 27 March, Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama met with Ambassador Mondale in connection with preparatory work for the presidential visit. At the meeting, Kajiyama reportedly urged progress in the Okinawa bases issue, while Mondale mainly discussed the need for settlement of three trade-related issues.

The Clinton administration's concession on Futenma, the top item on the Japanese Government's list of demands, will require certain return presents from Japan. In principle, Japan will be required to improve domestic conditions for more effective implementation of the Japan-U.S. security treaty, and to take coordinated action with the United States in dealing with the situation in China and North Korea. In connection with the U.S. presidential election now under way, Japan will also have to make concessions on economic negotiations to reach the short-term objective of the president's "successful Japan trip."

Japan: Hashimoto Develops Plan on 'Tackling' Talks With Yeltsin

OW1504040796 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 13 Apr 96 Evening Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has developed a plan on tackling the summit talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin scheduled for 19 April in Moscow. With regard to the major pending northern territorial issue, Hashimoto will merely call for reconfirming "the Tokyo Declaration," in which it is stipulated that bilateral negotiations should be continued on an early settlement of the issue and the conclusion of a peace treaty. Moreover, he will demand the complete banning of radioactive waste disposal in the ocean.

With the presidential election just around the corner in June, there is a growing mood of nationalism and patriotism in Russia. Taking such a current domestic situation into consideration, Hashimoto has judged that Japan could be involved in political disputes in Russia if Japan should go too far in demanding settlement of the territorial issue. Therefore, he has decided to focus his efforts on securing a foundation for future progress in the negotiations on the territorial issue.

Prime Minister Hashimoto will visit Russia from 18 to 20 April to attend the Nuclear Safety Summit Talks to be held on 19 and 20 April, which will be attended by top leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) and Russia.

Prior to the opening of the summit, Hashimoto plans to meet with President Yeltsin and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien. It will be the first visit to Russia by a Japanese prime minister in 11 years since then-Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's visit in 1985.

Among the major issues to be discussed at the Nuclear Safety Summit Talks are: Safety at nuclear power stations; disposal of radioactive wastes; and safety control of fissionable materials. Prime Minister Hashimoto will also exchange views with President Yeltsin on these issues at the Japan-Russia summit talks. Russia has not approved the annexed document of "the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matters" (the London Convention), which prohibits dumping of radioactive wastes, including lower-level wastes, into the ocean. In this connection, Hashimoto will strongly urge Russia to approve the document.

Japan: MOFA on Bilateral Ties, Policy Toward Russia

OW1304033196 (Internet) Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in English 10 Apr 96

["Questions and Answers" on Japan's policy toward Russia carried under the subhead "Japan-U.S. Political Cooperation"; from the "Q & A on Japan-U.S. Relations" link of the special Clinton visit home page]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Q. What is Japan doing to support reforms in Russia? Also, how is Japan cooperating with the United States?

A. It is critically important for us to urge Russia not to retreat from but to maintain its reform policy. Like the United States, we will continue to support Russia's reform efforts as long as it stays on track of the reform policy.

Based on such recognition, we, in cooperation with other G-7 countries, will urge Russia to sustain the reform policy. In this sense, the Moscow Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security scheduled after President Clinton's visit to Japan will present highly significant opportunity.

We have committed the sum total of more than US\$4.4 billion in aid to Russia, making it the third largest donor after Germany and the United States. We are implementing the following aid programs;

- Financing through the Export-Import Bank of Japan and underwriting trade insurance.
- Establishment and operation of the Japan Centers, which are dedicated to personnel training personnel

resources that will contribute to Russia's transition to a market economy.

- Establishment of the Regional Venture Fund to nurture small-and medium-sized privatized enterprises in the Russian Far East and Eastern Siberia.

- Provision of various types of humanitarian aid, including the provision of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment. (For more details, see the home page of the Japanese Cooperation Committee on Assistance to New Independent States: <http://www.infoweb.or.jp/scc/>).

Upon implementing those programs, we focus on those which would help Russia's own efforts to accomplish reforms, while placing particular emphasis on the Russian Far East, which is close to Japan.

Q. As the Russian presidential election is scheduled in June, what does the Japanese government regard the most important policy toward Russia? What is it doing to implement that policy?

A. The situation of Russia has become further volatile as the June presidential election approaches. Under such circumstances, we believe it is critically important to urge Russia not to retreat from maintain its reform policy. We have made this position clear to the Russian side.

Our basic policy toward Russia is to conclude a peace treaty by resolving the Northern Territories Issue thus achieving the full normalization of Japan-Russia relations, and to assist Russia's reform efforts in coordination with the international community so long as its reform policy is sustained.

Q. What are the prospects for resolving the Northern Territories Issue?

A. It is a consistent policy of Japan toward Russia to conclude a peace treaty with Russia by resolving the Northern Territories Issue, thus achieving the full normalization of Japan-Russia relations. The full normalization of relations between the two countries is important for the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

Ever since President Yeltsin visited Japan in October 1993 and signed the Tokyo Declaration, Japan and Russia have repeatedly reaffirmed that their bilateral relation be advanced on the basis of the Tokyo Declaration.

When Prime Minister Hashimoto took office in January of this year, Prime Minister Hashimoto sent a return message to President Yeltsin who had sent a congratulatory message to him. In that he emphasized the importance of the resolution of Northern Territories Issue and

asked for President Yeltsin's cooperation in promoting bilateral relations based on the Tokyo Declaration.

Although the situation of Russia remains uncertain, and the current state of the Northern Territories Issue does not allow optimism. We will continue to urge Russia to take serious efforts to move forward, if only one step at a time, toward a resolution of the Northern Territories Issue, in view that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration that restored diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Japan: Hashimoto Expected To Attend Nuclear Summit in Moscow

OW1204123296 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 11 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 3

[By Shin Nakayama of the political department]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto will attend the "Nuclear Security Summit Talks" to be held in Moscow 19-20 April. This will be the first visit to Russia (former Soviet Union) by a Japanese prime minister in 11 years since (then) Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's visit in 1985. Hashimoto is scheduled to hold summit talks with President Boris Yeltsin. However, since it will be immediately before the presidential election in Russia, there will be little hope for a great progress in talks on the pending territorial issue.

At the summit, President Yeltsin will serve as co-chairperson with French President Jacques Chirac. In addition to the top leaders of the G-7 countries, the Ukrainian President will also be present at the summit.

Among the concrete topics for the summit are: ensuring security at the outdated nuclear power stations that are located mainly in the former Soviet Union and in East European countries; control of nuclear wastes generated during nuclear power station operation; ensuring safe management of nuclear materials to prevent nuclear proliferation or nuclear-involved terrorism; and the nuclear disarmament issue centered on the early conclusion of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The focal issue that will be particularly brought up for talks is the nuclear power station in Chernobyl where a serious accident took place in April 1986. Ukraine has already decided on closing down the nuclear power station in question by 2000. G-7 countries have promised to provide aid amounting to \$2.3 billion. However, since Ukraine is seeking a large amount of additional funds, it is expected to ask G-7 countries for an additional aid at the summit.

In connection with the nuclear waste disposal issue, the government is building a storage and treatment facility

off the coast of Vladivostok for the purpose of settling the problem concerning Russia's disposal of low-level radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan. Moreover, the government plans an appeal for funding for this project. And there is a great possibility that Russia will announce its agreement to the "Revised London Treaty (the treaty on the control of disposal of toxic materials into oceans)" that wholly prohibits disposal of nuclear materials into oceans.

On the other hand, Hashimoto and Yeltsin will be holding the first Japan-Russia summit talks in two and half years since President Yeltsin's visit to Japan in October 1993. Prime Minister Hashimoto will reiterate Japan's support for Russia in promoting its reform policy. Concerning the pending territorial issue, it is viewed that "if the other side should be driven into a tight corner on the eve of its presidential election, there is a danger that it will bring about adverse effects," (as stated by a senior official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). It is expected that the summit talks will end up merely reconfirming "the Tokyo Declaration (of 1993)," which admits that the territorial issue exists.

Japan: DPRK Delegation Urges High-Level Talks With Japan

OW1104121296 Hong Kong AFP in English
1153 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 11 (AFP) — North Korea asked senior officials of Japan's ruling coalition Thursday [11 April] for high-level talks to prepare for a normalisation of ties between the two countries, Jiji Press said.

A North Korean delegation made the request during a meeting in Tokyo with the officials, including Keiko Chiba, vice chairman of the Social Democratic Party, one of the three ruling parties, Jiji said.

Kang Chong-hun, a member of the Workers Party's Central Committee, asked Chiba to invite high-ranking official of North Korea's Workers' Party to Japan for talks, the report said.

Chiba reportedly told Kang that her party would consider the request.

The delegation arrived Saturday on a weeklong visit at the invitation of members of the Aichi prefectural assembly in central Japan.

Normalisation talks between Tokyo and Pyongyang have been suspended since 1992.

Japanese officials have recently expressed interest in re-newing contacts, but Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said last week preparations to resume talks would be

shelved following North Korea's recent forays into the demilitarised zone separating the country from South Korea.

During the talks, Chiba expressed concern about the situation in the zone.

Kang was quoted as responding: "The South Korean side is taking a provoking attitude. We are not willing to causing trouble, but we cannot help but take counter measures like this."

Japan: DPRK's Kim Chong-il Regime Said 'on Eve of Crumbling'

962B0060A Tokyo SHUKAN BUNSHUN in Japanese
29 Feb 96 pp 42-44

[Unattributed article: "U.S. Fighter Planes Training Over Gunma Dam To Bomb North Korea]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] What the term "internal collapse" reminds us of first is the scarcity of food in North Korea due to record flood damage.

A leading member of Chongnyon (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) [pro-Pyongyang] was contacted by this journal's coverage team and he recounted food conditions he saw in North Korea as follows: "Rice rationing was once suspended for as long as two months in Pyongyang around last summer, but food conditions have recently been improving. Yet rationed rice is absolutely insufficient, that is, a little short of satisfying one's stomach. Fish and perishable foods are almost unobtainable. As for fruits, old apples are all people can purchase with difficulty. Another problem is spiraling prices in the black market. At present, rice is priced at 80 won (about 5,000 yen) per kilogram, twice as high as one year ago."

Outside Information Spreading Among Citizens

"Salaries are high for medical doctors in North Korea, but their monthly incomes are still only 150 won (about 9,300 yen), an amount barely enabling them to obtain 1 kilogram of rice in the black market. Ordinary citizens cannot even think of such a purchase. What is worse, the value of the North Korean won has dipped, and one cannot purchase anything in the black market unless one has a convertible note which can be purchased only by the dollar and the Japanese yen. The value of the won continues to go down rapidly, and a sense of desperation is spreading among citizens."

According to the leading member, to his astonishment, he found in Pyongyang that many people, including those of the lower classes, knew about the aid rice from Japan. He says:

"I thought that 'something is different from the past' when I saw among citizens the wide spread of information from the outside world. They even knew about the subway sarin incident in Japan.

"As a result, citizens were beginning to express their dissatisfaction with the aid rice. They asked, 'If there is some aid rice, why is it not being distributed to us? Is it not concealed somewhere?' I felt that this was indeed a dangerous situation which could even lead to a food riot."

A leading member of Sanggongnyon (The Commerce and Industry Federation of Korean Residents in Japan) [pro-Pyongyang], who recently visited North Korea, also made the following remarks:

"In the past, it was, on the whole, impossible for citizens living in local cities to move (into Pyongyang) because of close surveillance by authorities. However, those flowing into Pyongyang from localities are sharply rising in number these days. My family members living in Pyongyang even said to me, 'Never go out at night. You will encounter a holdup man or a robber. Pyongyang has now changed entirely.' The influx of people into Pyongyang proves that the country has further gone out of gear. This is an unbelievable situation."

It is already common knowledge that the North Korean economy is maintained by donations from Korean residents in Japan, but a "red light" is beginning to show in this regard as well.

An influential Korean resident concerned with commercial and industrial activities gave the following account of what he had witnessed:

"Many Korean merchants and industrialists in Japan, who have propped up the work of huge donations to North Korea, are now sweating blood as a result of the damage from the bust of a booming economy. They were scheduled to send a delegation from Japan to attend Kim Chong-il's birthday celebration, but the plan was not realized because no invitation was extended from North Korea. However, many merchants and industrialists then said that 'when visiting North Korea, each visitor again must bring a gratuity amounting to over 10 million yen, and I feel relieved at the suspension of the plan.'"

"Defectors" Who Might Follow Madam Song Hye-rim

Complicating the situation is the "confusion" within Chongnyon surrounding Mr. Ho Chong-man (responsible vice chairman), who now reportedly runs

Chongnyon in substance. A source (the leading Chongnyon member already cited) said:

"Local organizational leaders are vehemently opposed to Mr. Ho Chong-man's working style. Clothing items to be sent to the fatherland were collected from across the country some days ago, but Mr. Ho Chong-man incurred people's anger by throwing away clothes from the Osaka District because they were worn out.

"In addition, he transferred many Chongnyon workers to local areas, while he picked his favorite to head the central propaganda department. Such personnel measures are meeting massive opposition not only from Chongnyon, but also from Korean merchants and industrialists residing in Japan."

It appears that the amounts of donations are naturally on the extreme decrease because Chongnyon itself, which originally was to control donations to North Korea, is in "confusion." A person (a Defense Agency source) said:

"Those in charge of information in Japan, the United States, and the ROK fear that, sensitized by its lack of foreign money and food, North Korea may become cruel to itself and commit reckless acts, prompting some disturbed elements to resort to military action. However, it is difficult to predict the timing of such action. This is why U.S. troops in Japan are repeating intense training."

Western information sources in Seoul are paying attention to two persons as possible defectors following Madam Song Hye-rim.

One is Mr. Kim Pyong-il (ambassador to Finland), Kim Chong-il's brother by a different mother. Immediately after Kim Il-song's death, the Japanese Government seriously studied "Kim Pyong-il's defection to Japan" at a secret meeting. This indicates that such a possibility is not quite remote.

The other one is Mr. Yi Chol (ambassador to Switzerland). A person (an information source in Seoul) made the following remarks:

"Yi Chol was initially considered a man close to Kim Pyong-il, but he is said to have made an about-face by pledging allegiance to Kim Chong-il a few years ago. Yet there is no knowing what he is really thinking at heart. Mr. Yi Chol is regarded as the only person who knows the account numbers and key words for hidden assets amounting to several billion dollars which Kim Chong-il has in private banks in Geneva and Vienna; this is why he is important. If he defects, the blow it will give North Korea will surpass all imagination."

North Korea's Kim Chong-il regime is on eve of crumbling.

Japan: Central Bank Reportedly To Seek Greater Autonomy

OW1304060396 Tokyo KYODO in English
1437 GMT 13 Apr 96

[By Yoichi Kosukegawa]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO — After more than 30 years of silence, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) is raising the issue of revising the law which governs it, seeking to be unleashed from the finance ministry.

Recommendations made by a government panel in 1960 that would have increased the BOJ's independence from the ministry never materialized.

This time, however, favorable winds are blowing for the central bank.

The once-invincible finance ministry is currently under strong public criticism for its response to a series of incidents and scandals, including the handling of the bad loan mess at failed "jusen" mortgage companies.

As part of measures to overhaul the ministry's financial administration, the governing coalition is considering a revision of the BOJ law.

The law, drawn up back in 1942, during World War II, gives broad authority to the ministry, and critics say it leaves the BOJ less independent than its U.S. and German counterparts.

BOJ Governor Yasuo Matsushita previously showed a cautious stance on the issue, saying, "the law should be reviewed in the future. At present, however, there is no problem in the BOJ's monetary policy management under the law."

But Matsushita recently took a step forward, claiming, "it is necessary for Japan to review the BOJ law so it can cope with changing economic and financial conditions, and match the central bank laws of other industrialized nations."

Even that limited call for greater independence, however, immediately met with resistance from the finance ministry.

Vice Finance Minister Tadashi Ogawa expressed a negative stance toward reviewing the BOJ law.

"I don't think the current law has any problem because the ministry and the BOJ fully understand each other under provisions of the law," Ogawa said.

The BOJ law stipulates that changes in the official discount rate should be determined by the central bank's policy board. The official discount rate is the basic

rate levied by the central bank on short-term loans to commercial banks.

At the same time, however, the law provides the finance minister with the authority to supervise the BOJ and to issue orders to the central bank "if necessary."

The ministry repeatedly says the issue of whether to raise or lower the official discount rate should be left to the discretion of the BOJ.

On the surface, the BOJ also says there has been no discord between the central bank and the ministry.

In reality, however, the BOJ has been forced to bow to pressure from the ministry in its monetary policy management.

In the latest case, Yasushi Mieno, Matsushita's predecessor, tried to raise the discount rate shortly after he took office in December 1989.

But he was forced to withdraw the rate hike decision due to strong opposition from then Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, now in office as the prime minister.

Mineko Sasaki-Smith, senior economist at Morgan Stanley Japan Ltd., said it is "high time" for Japan to review the BOJ law to increase the central bank's independence.

Sasaki-Smith, also said, however, "an increase in the BOJ's independence would not directly lead to better monetary policies."

More importantly, it is necessary to consider ways to make the BOJ's decision-making process more transparent and to include monetary experts among the members of the central bank's policy board, she said.

Unlike the federal open market committee of the U.S. Federal Reserve System, the BOJ's policy board does not make public the contents of its debates.

The policy-making body of the U.S. central bank system discloses the contents of debate six weeks after a meeting.

The BOJ's policy board, meanwhile, consist of seven members — the BOJ governor, representatives from the finance ministry and the Economic Planning Agency, and four members selected by the cabinet from the banking and other industries.

Often criticized as "the sleeping board," the policy board has tended toward becoming a mere name since the BOJ governor's opinion essentially becomes the board's decision.

It is necessary to include monetary policy professionals in the board and conduct frank discussions, Sasaki-Smith said.

BOJ Governor Matsushita says, "the issue of revision should be discussed among the people from a wide range of viewpoints because the BOJ law is the basis of Japan's economic and monetary system."

To that end, however, the BOJ should present the public with possible measures for improving its overall monetary policy management, and not just go after independence from the finance ministry, analysts said.

North Korea

DPRK: Comments on Upcoming Visit by Clinton to ROK

SK1304033196 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0320 GMT 13 Apr 96

["Miserable Colonial Stoooge" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — The U.S. President and defense secretary will reportedly drop in at South Korea on their way to Japan for hours on April 16.

It is clear that the sudden South Korea visit by the U.S. President, whose original plan was to visit Japan and Russia, may be a result of the mendicant diplomacy of the South Korean puppets, who are trying to free themselves from an extreme isolation.

It is ridiculous of the puppets to describe the South Korea visit by the U.S. President as "solid cooperation between South Korea and the U.S.".

With a view to "demonstrating" the "support" of the U.S. and thus extricating themselves from the isolation the South Korean puppets hurriedly sent the "foreign minister" to the U.S., and are raising a hue and cry over the visit by the U.S. President. This shows how miserable their lot is.

As for the "South Korea-U.S. cooperation" on the lips of the South Korean puppets, it is a sycophantic treachery for inter-Korean confrontation and the aggravation of situation.

The South Korean puppets should clearly know that the "South Korea-U.S. cooperation" is not a way out but a road to destruction.

The U.S. should stop bringing "importance of alliance" home to the South Korean puppets and encouraging the warmaniacs.

If a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, it will bring nothing good to the U.S.

DPRK: ROK Student Protests Against Clinton Visit Noted

*SK1504045196 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0403 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA) — The South Korean Federation of University Student Councils set April 15 and 16 as "Days Against South Korea Visit by the U.S. President, Bill Clinton" and decided to stage an anti-U.S. struggle, according to a Seoul-based radio.

The organisation will hold rallies in different parts against the South Korea visit by the U.S. president and pay a protest visit to the U.S. Embassy, the "U.S. Cultural Centre" and other U.S. establishments, said the radio.

Upset by this, the fascist clique, saying that youths and students may occupy the U.S. establishments around the South Korea visit by the U.S. president, issued an order to the frontline police to be on full alert, creating a terror-ridden atmosphere.

DPRK: Japan-U.S. Security Treaty for Committing 'Aggressive War'

*SK1304053196 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean
2200 GMT 12 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report from Washington, Nye, the former assistant U.S. secretary of defense, confessed that the Japan-U.S. security treaty is aimed at committing an aggressive war on the Korean peninsula. During an interview organized on 10 April by a center in Boston, the United States, he said the Japan-U.S. security treaty allows the U.S. forces to use the facilities of Japan's Self-Defense Forces in case of a crisis on the Korean peninsula.

He added that if war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, in accordance with this treaty the U.S. forces can use Japanese bases and will receive supply assistance from Japan. While saying the Korean peninsula is the most likely place in the East Asia region where a dispute may occur, he babbled that if a dispute does occur, this will have a direct influence on Japan's state security.

He claimed that reflecting the changes in the regional situation, the United States and Japan should reexamine the implementation procedures for the Japan-U.S. security treaty to gradually increase the range of cooperation. This clearly shows that the Japan-U.S. security treaty is not for some kind of security, but is to commit a war opposing our country through collusion between the United States and Japan.

DPRK Daily Decries U.S.-Japan Military 'Collusion'

*SK1404025996 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean
0854 GMT 13 Apr 96*

[NODONG SINMUN 13 April commentary: "Dangerous Military Collusion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States and Japan are raving about peace and detente. However, in reality, they do not want peace but seek aggression and war. This is shown by the Japan-U.S. joint declaration on security, which will reportedly be released after the Japan-U.S. summit talks to be held in Tokyo in mid-April.

According to a report, the U.S. President will first fly to Tokyo and hold what are called summit talks with the Japanese prime minister. The U.S. President and the Japanese prime minister will reportedly discuss a series of issues. What is called a new Japan-U.S. joint declaration on security will be released after the talks. The joint declaration will reportedly reconfirm the new era of the security system and deal with the issue of studying a mode of cooperation in defense in the post-cold war era and applying the mode during a contingency in the Far East, and the U.S. forces' use of bases of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces and U.S.-Japan cooperation in fuel supply and transport during a crisis on the Korean Peninsula.

Seeking to guarantee security through military cooperation is not a position on security but a position on war.

The new era of security which the United States and Japan talk about means a new era of aggression, war, domination and intervention over Asia. And the mode of cooperation in defense means a mode of war by military forces, and counteraction to an emergency in the Far East means a war of aggression against Korea [choson].

Cooperation in fuel supply and transport means the United States will utilize all the manpower and material resources of Japan at any moment for their purpose of aggression. As one may know from this, it is clear the upcoming session will be a conspiratorial discussion to further strengthen military collusion between the United States and Japan, which, running counter to peace and detente on the Korean Peninsula, are seeking confrontation and war. It is also clear the Japan-U.S. joint declaration on security, which will be released after the discussion, will be an anachronistic document on aggression and war.

The Japan-U.S. security system is the byproduct of the cold war. The United States and Japan signed a security treaty in 1951 and revised it many times after that.

The United States and Japan have justified the security treaty and the military collusion based on the treaty, saying they are intended to cope with threats from the Soviet Union.

Then, under circumstances in which those threats no longer exist after the cold war, the United States and Japan have come up with the fiction of threats from North Korea to maintain the U.S.-Japan security system and tightened their military collusion.

This move by the United States and Japan is of a very dangerous nature. It is a factor further aggravating the situation on the Korean Peninsula and in its vicinity.

The U.S. forces plan to use bases of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces in case of a crisis on the Korean Peninsula and step up U.S.-Japan cooperation in fuel supply and transport. This is a military measure taken only on the eve of a war.

DPRK Paper Denounces Japan-U.S. Declaration on Security

SK1304051796 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0507 GMT 13 Apr 96

["NODONG SINMUN on Dangerous Nature of 'Japan-U.S. Joint Declaration on Security'" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today elaborates on the dangerous nature of the "Japan-U.S. joint declaration on security" which is expected to be published in the wake of a Japan-U.S. summit meeting in Tokyo in the middle of this month.

The news analyst says:

"New era of security system" to be specified in the "declaration" means a new era of their aggression, war, domination and intervention over Asia. "Mode of cooperation in defence" means a mode of war by military forces. "Counteraction to emergency in the Far East" means war of aggression on Korea. "Cooperation in fuel supply and transport" means that the United States will utilise all the manpower and material resources of Japan for their purpose of aggression any moment.

The move of the United States and Japan to maintain the "security system" and tighten military collusion over the fiction of "threats from North Korea" in the post-Cold War period is of very grave danger.

It is because the move is a factor aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula and in its vicinity.

The main purpose of the new military collusion between the United States and Japan is to execute the U.S. strategy of aggression on Korea. Lurking behind their

intensified military collusion are sinister purposes. The United States schemes to bring Japan under its control and establish military and economic domination in the Asia-Pacific region, while Japan aims to accelerate arms buildup with the backing of the U.S., become a military and political power and play the role of leader in Asia.

By "security" they mean the "security" for the strategic interests of the two countries to bring the Asian countries under their control politically, economically and militarily.

The Korean and other Asian peoples are sharply watching the intensified military collusion of the U.S. and Japan.

The two countries must clearly know that they will get nothing from intensified military tieup.

One cannot but think that taking the step of intensifying Japan's combat power by bringing numerous armed forces into Japan itself is aimed at war.

The main purpose of the new U.S.-Japan military collusion is to execute the U.S. strategy for aggression against Korea. The basis for carrying out the U.S. Asian strategy is the U.S.-Japan military alliance and the alliance is an organization designed to provoke a Korean war.

This was proven by the fact that the military operational command system between armed forces of the United States and Japan has been unified and a joint operational plan has been established to prepare for an emergency on the Korean Peninsula.

Today the U.S.-Japan military alliance is in active movement toward the Korean Peninsula. The United States is continually increasing armed forces on and around the Korean Peninsula and frequently staging joint military exercises with Japan and South Korea.

It is clear that under these circumstances, if steps are taken to further intensify U.S.-Japan military collusion, the situation in this region will be further strained.

The United States and Japan have dishonest intentions in further strengthening their military collusion. The United States is trying to realize military and economic domination of Asia and the Pacific by taking control of Japan by all means, while Japan is attempting to hold its position as a great military power and great political power by accelerating an arms buildup in reliance on the United States. Thus, Japan is scheming to become the leading power of Asia.

By security they mean security for the strategic interests of the two countries to bring the Asian countries under their control politically, economically, and militarily.

The Asian people demand peaceful and stable circumstances in order to build a new society. However, the intensified U.S.-Japan military collusion will strain the situation in this region and create barriers to peaceful and stable circumstances and to economic development of the Asian countries. It will also instigate an arms race in this region.

Our people and Asian peoples are sharply watching the intensified military collusion between the United States and Japan.

Those who commit a crime by going against the trend of the times cannot be at all safe. The United States and Japan should clearly know that they will get nothing from intensified military tieups.

DPRK: ROK, U.S. Conduct 'Aerial War Exercises' 9-11 Apr

*SK1304084396 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0813 GMT 13 Apr 96*

["Never-ceasing War Gamble and Espionage" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets in conspiracy with the U.S. imperialist warmaniacs staged large-scale, provocative joint aerial war exercises against the North from April 9 to 11, military sources said.

Involved in the war racket held in the skies above Wonju, Sangdong and Samchok according to the scenario of a war against the North were fighter bombers, carrier-based planes, assault planes and reconnaissance planes of the puppet air force, the U.S. Fifth and Seventh Air Forces, and the U.S. Pacific Fleet, more than 1,730 all told.

From April 9 to 11, the U.S. imperialists called out E-3 early warning planes, P-3 patrol planes, U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance planes, tactical spy planes, helicopters for electronic warfare, more than 30 in all, for espionage on all the areas of the North.

The South Korean puppets and the U.S. imperialist warmaniacs should act with discretion, mindful that their reckless war preparations are creating a very dangerous situation on the Korean peninsula.

DPRK: U.S. Modernizing Armed Forces in ROK To Provoke War

*SK1304083696 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0815 GMT 13 Apr 96*

["U.S. Updates Its Forces in South Korea" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — THE WASHINGTON POST April 10 reportedly said the United States had updated its South Korea-stationed Armed Forces in recent years with an investment amounting to billions of dollars.

According to the paper, over the past six years the U.S. has replaced all its tanks in South Korea with M-1 A1 Abrams tanks.

It has also changed the aging multi-purpose helicopters with 165 UH-60 Black Hawks by investing more than D3,700 million from 1991.

M-113 armored personnel carriers have been replaced with 180 latest-type Bradley vehicles.

The facts indicate that U.S. bellicose forces are making greater efforts for the modernization of Armed Forces in a bid to provoke a war against the North.

DPRK: 'Self-Defensive Countermeasure' Said 'Legitimate' Right

*SK1404081796 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0806 GMT 14 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA) — "The South Korean authorities' bellicose military moves are a grave challenge to and provocation against us and an intolerable mockery of the entire nation aspiring after peace and peaceful reunification. We can never remain an onlooker to them but take a self-defensive countermeasure. This is a legitimate exercise of our right to self-defense, with which nobody can take issue."

Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea, declared this at the national meeting, which was held here today to commemorate the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

He said:

"The present developments go to show that the South Korean authorities are on the verge of launching the invasion of the North and that war on the Korean peninsula is not a matter of if but a matter of when.

"Convinced of the justness of our cause, we will not mind whatever any one says and never change our determined position.

"To cope with the prevailing situation, we should maintain more heightened vigilance and fuller combat posture than ever before, strengthen the political and military power of the People's Army in every way and more strictly establish the nation-wide defence system by thoroughly implementing the party's self-defense military line."

He went on to say:

"The United States should respond without delay to the most reasonable and aboveboard proposal advanced by the government of our Republic to ensure a lasting peace in the Korean peninsula, and stop instigating the South Korean rulers at reckless war exercises against the North.

"If the enemy dare encroach upon an inch of our land and a blade of our grass, persistently resorting to the wild design to stifle us by strength, our people and People's Army will take a powerful self-defensive step to annihilate it at one stroke."

DPRK: Russian Party Urges U.S. To Take Hands Off Korea

SK1304081696 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0808 GMT 13 Apr 96

["U.S. Urged To Take Hands Off Korea" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia in a statement of its Department of Information on April 9 lodged a decisive protest against Washington's new anti-DPRK campaign.

It further said:

In the 50s the U.S. invaded North Korea and engaged itself in murder and destruction, unhesitatingly using the most barbarous mass-destruction weapons of various kinds, including germ weapons.

The U.S. still remains in the half land of Korea, which it has been occupying for more than half a century.

The U.S. occupiers commit provocations against the DPRK and force South Korea to be in a full combat posture. Mass media of the U.S. are engaged in a frantic campaign against the DPRK.

The statement strongly urged the U.S. to take hands off Korea.

DPRK: International Committee of Jurists in ROK Issues Bulletin

SK1304093796 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0821 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — The International Committee of Jurists for Democracy and Human Rights in South Korea issued its bulletin information on Korea No.4.

In an article entitled "New Proposal for Peace, Detente and Human Rights", the bulletin recalled that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed to the United States to conclude a tentative agreement between the two sides and organise a DPRK-U.S. joint military tool in order to establish a new peace-keeping mechanism. But the South Korean authorities and Japan are maneuvering to foil it, feeling nervous about the DPRK-U.S. negotiations, it said.

It said in an article entitled "National Security Law [NSL]: The Beginning of Downfall" that the Kim Yong-sam "government" is unprecedentedly intensifying the suppression of the opposition groups by invoking the "NSL," only to face more and more difficulties in maintaining "power".

This law, which has been rejected by Amnesty International and all other non-governmental international organizations and even by the U.S. State Department, is breathing its last, it added.

The bulletin also carried "The Truth Behind the Kwangju Massacre", "Irregularities of Former S. Korean 'Presidents'" and other articles.

DPRK: Radio Carries Spokesman's Statement on Truce

SK1304002596 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean*
2110 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman of the DPRK Foreign Ministry issued a statement on 12 April in connection with the fact that the South Korean authorities and some insidious forces are seriously getting on our nerves by creating groundless rumors, which are not at all helpful to the settlement of the situation, at a time when the recent military tensions on the Korean peninsula are leading closer to an unpredictable situation every moment.

The statement by the spokesman of the DPRK Foreign Ministry reads:

While the recent military tensions on the Korean peninsula are leading closer to an unpredictable situation every moment, the South Korean authorities and some in-

sidious forces are seriously agitating us by producing groundless rumors that are not at all helpful to settling the situation. The rumor producers are deliberately distorting the essence of the present situation, branding our self-defensive measure as a political provocation aimed at some specific purpose and a tactic of diplomatic pressure on someone, in their futile attempt to make the provokers the guardian of peace, and the victims, the destroyer of peace.

It has been officially explained on several occasions why our Armed Forces could not but shift to [nomogaji anumyon andoeonunga] an active self-defensive measure.

As is well known, this year, the South Korean authorities, actively instigated by the U.S. bellicose quarters, have entered into the stage of executing a long-prepared plan of war of northward aggression in a full-fledged manner. [migugui hojongyechungui chokkukchogin puchugimul padun namjosen tanggukchadurun orhae turowa oraejon puto chunbihayo on pukchim chonjaeng kyehoegul pongyokchoguro silhaenghanun tangyee turo sotta]

From the beginning of the year, surprise attack exercises and joint naval exercises were held one after another throughout South Korea on the ground and the sea and in the sky. A large force of the South Korean Army, Navy, and Air Force participated in the Hoguk 96 military exercise from late March to early April.

At the same time, the U.S. military staged a U.S.-South Korea joint military exercise mobilizing nearly 1,000 warplanes, including the latest fighter-bombers B-1s and B-52s. The situation has developed toward a dangerous line [wihomhan kyeson] that can only be seen on the eve of war.

The scope of the military exercises of the enemies is 1.3 times greater than last year and 1.5 times greater than the previous years. What this figure means is clear to everyone.

What we cannot overlook is that the South Korean authorities have turned the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] and the DMZ into a completely militarized zone and firmly established a new starting position for attack.

The South Korean authorities, who had long since ignored the provisions of the Armistice Agreement on the maintenance and management of the DMZ, brought various types of heavy weapons and built military facilities in the entire southern portion of the DMZ. They went so far as to openly build a position in an area 100 meters away from the MDL.

Facing the dramatic situation in which one of the hostile parties [choktae ssangbangui hanchogeso] is obviously making war preparations, we could not just look with folded arms at the situation in the hope of getting someone's recognition.

It was only fair [chongjong tangdang] that our Armed Forces responsible for the security of the fatherland and the nation exercised the right to self-defense to prevent the outbreak of a war and to safeguard peace and security.

Nevertheless, the South Korean authorities and U.S. bellicose right-wing conservatives are misleading public opinion with the allegation that we have destroyed the Armistice Agreement for specific purposes, including the signing of a tentative agreement with the United States.

Their allegation is nothing but a deception aimed at concealing the true colors of the provokers and justifying their war actions.

We want peace, but never beg for it. This is our unshakable faith.

The enemy's clumsy drama has been duly rejected by fair international opinion, which can judge what is right, and only added fuel to the animosity of our people and People's Army.

Our Republic Government has put forward realistic proposals to change armistice into a durable peace on the Korean Peninsula, and has constantly made patient efforts to implement the proposals.

With a view to filling up the dangerous vacuum in security and preserving peace under the present broken armistice system, we proposed a new peace mechanism and officially expressed our willingness to observe the Armistice Agreement until the peace mechanism was established. This was said under the premise that the present armistice system will remain in effect until a new system is set up. [igosun saeroun chegyega naol itae kkaji hyon chongjon hyopchong chachenun yuhyo hadanun kosul chonjero han kosida]

The point is to establish a new peace-keeping system as early as possible in place of the present collapsing armistice system.

As part of the efforts for its establishment, we recently presented an epochal proposal to renew the impotent Armistice Agreement as a tentative agreement in order to prevent any casual armed conflict into the DMZ.

However, our efforts were not realized in time due to the enemy's unreasonable position [pudangan ipchang].

The blame for the destroyed Korean Armistice Agreement lies with the United States, which has historically and systematically destroyed and infringed upon the Armistice Agreement and the armistice supervisory organizations, all the while wearing the hat of the UN Forces, and with the South Korean authorities under U.S. patronage.

As soon as it signed the Armistice Agreement, the United States blocked the possibility of a peaceful coordination of the Korean issue from the beginning by artificially breaking the convocation of a higher-level political conference, which was envisaged in Paragraph 60 of the Armistice Agreement. In 1957, it unilaterally breached Sub-Paragraph 13D of the Armistice Agreement, which regulates the introduction of military equipment and operational materiel, and declared it would not submit a report on replacing old operational materiel with newer ones.

The United States interfered in every way with the activities of the neutral nations inspection teams, which had been dispatched to the ports of entry of Inchon, Taegu, Kangnung, Pusan, and Kunsan, under Paragraph 43 of the Armistice Agreement. At the end, it did not hesitate to coercively expel them.

Over the past odd 40 years, the United States and the South Korean authorities breached two-thirds of the paragraphs of the Armistice Agreement. The agreement, therefore, has remained a mere scrap of paper which cannot help guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula.

Moreover, in 1991 the United States appointed a general from the South Korean puppet army, who has neither the qualification nor the right, as the senior member of the UN Forces to the Military Armistice Commission [MAC], thus completely paralyzing the functions and role of the MAC.

All facts clearly prove who is the one that has systematically destroyed the Armistice Agreement and aggravated tensions on the Korean peninsula.

This notwithstanding, the South Korean authorities took the matter to the UN Security Council, taking issue with someone's destruction of the Armistice Agreement and their provocations in the DMZ. This is the height of impudence.

If there is anything to be done, though belatedly, by the United Nations, whose name and flag have been misused for the destruction of the Armistice Agreement in the past, it is to remember the unpleasant past concerning the Korean issue and to charge the United States and the South Korean authorities with systematically destroying and incapacitating the Armistice Agreement.

The United States, the actual signatory to the Armistice Agreement, should look squarely at the matter and act with discretion at the present juncture decisive of the fate of the situation [sataeui unmyongul pangarum hanun chigumui chaegimjogin sijomeso].

If the insidious forces lose reason and dance to the tune of others, history will call them to account because they are heavily responsible for the irrevocable disaster inflicted upon humankind.

Convinced of the justness of our cause, we do not mind what others say. We will never change the position we determined and adopted.

DPRK: 'Three-Dimensional War Exercise' in ROK Denounced

*SK1504072496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0559 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppet headquarters of the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced that a three-dimensional war exercise, under the name of "anti-air raid civilian sheltering exercise," involving even fighters, will be held today in 38 cities throughout South Korea including Seoul, Pusan, Taegu and Taejon, a Seoul-based radio said.

The puppets clamoured that the war exercise "would be held in high intensity at the request of the Ministry of Home Affairs for gauging the anti-air raid civilian capabilities," taking issue with the North over the alleged "military demonstration."

It goes without saying that the South Korean puppets' current exercise, synchronized with the massive ill-boding military manoeuvrings that can be found only on the eve of war, is aimed at fanning anti-North hostility among the people and spurring them on to war against the North under the pretext of "military threat" from the North.

The Kim Yong-sam group, who are preoccupied with war fever, will pay dear price for their arch crimes.

DPRK: Central Committee Official on 'Tensions' With South

*SK1404111396 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean
0703 GMT 14 Apr 96*

[Report by Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and secretary of the party Central Committee, at the central report meeting marking the

84th birth anniversary of Kim Il-song held at Pyongyang Gymnasium — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The recent military tensions on the Korean peninsula are at every moment leading closer to an unpredictable situation. Under these circumstances, the South Korean authorities and some insidious forces are seriously agitating us, while producing groundless rumors that are not at all helpful to settling the situation.

The rumor producers are deliberately distorting the essence of the very grave situation prevailing on the Korean peninsula; raving that our self-defensive measure, which was aimed at preventing the breakout of a war and defending peace and security, is a political provocation aimed at some specific purpose and a tactic of diplomatic pressure on someone; and are making a futile attempt to make the provokers the guardians of peace and the victims the destroyers of peace.

Because of the bellicose maneuvers by the South Korean authorities, ill-boding military moves that can be seen only on the eve of a war are being made extensively south of the Military Demarcation Line. And, even at this moment, dangerous power-reeking games of fire aimed at attacking us are being perpetrated one after another in the air, on the land, and at sea in South Korea.

The present developments show that the South Korean authorities' launching mechanism for northward invasion has already been cocked [namjosen tanggukchadurui pukchim kyokpalgiga imi tanggyojin sangtae iranun kosul] and that a war on the Korean peninsula is not a matter of if, but a matter of when [chosa pan-doeso chonjaengi ironagennunga malgennunga hanungosi anira kusijomi onjae inga hanunde ittanungosul].

The South Korean authorities' bellicose military moves are a grave challenge to and a provocation against us and an intolerable mockery of the entire nation aspiring after peace and peaceful reunification. We can never remain an onlooker to them, and taking a due self-defensive countermeasure is a legitimate exercise of our right to self-defense, with which nobody can take issue.

Never forgiving any action that infringes on the security of the fatherland and the revolutionary accomplishments and responding to fire with fire and to a stick with a stick is the trait of our People's Army and people and their firm will. [applause]

Convinced of the justness of our cause, we will not mind whatever anyone says and never change our determined and adopted position.

To cope with the prevailing situation, we should strengthen the political and military might of the

People's Army in every way and should firmly set up the nationwide and all-people defense system in the entire country by maintaining higher alertness and fuller preparedness for combat than any other time and thoroughly implementing the party's self-defensive military lines.

The United States should respond without delay to the most reasonable and aboveboard proposal advanced by the government of our Republic to ensure a lasting peace on the Korean peninsula, and stop instigating the South Korean rulers at reckless exercises for northward aggression.

If the enemy dare encroach upon an inch of our land and a blade of our grass, without abandoning its wild design to stifle us by strength, our people and the People's Army will take a powerful self-defensive step to annihilate it with one stroke. [applause] [passage omitted]

DPRK: Party Issues Statement on Korean Peninsula Situation

*SK1504072696 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0602 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[“All Attempts To Solve Korean Issue With Strength Condemned” — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 13 (KCNA) — The Secretariat of the Council of the Union of Communist Parties—the Communist Party of the Soviet Union released a statement captioned “on political and military situation on the Korean peninsula” on April 8 in connection with the situation on the Korean peninsula caused by new war provocation manouvings of the U.S. and the South Korean authorities.

The statement says that the U.S., a signatory to the Korean Armistice Agreement, does not fulfill its obligation concerning the peaceful solution to the Korean issue but continues introducing weapons and military equipment into South Korea. The South Korean “Government” continues increasing its military power and staging large-scale military manoeuvres in the areas along the Military Demarcation Line, depending on the political and military support from the U.S., it notes.

It is clear that the basic intention of the U.S. is to solve the problem of the relations between the North and South of Korea by means of war, the statement says, adding that the Secretariat of the Council of the Union of Communist Parties—the Communist Party of the Soviet Union bitterly denounces all the attempts to solve the Korean issue by dint of force and supports the activities of the leadership of the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea to achieve Korea's reunification in a peaceful way.

DPRK: Leaflets Praising Kim Il-song Found in Seoul

SK1204135396 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0824 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — Copies of a leaflet bearing the letters "The Great Leader President Kim Il-song Will Always Be With Us" were reportedly found scattered in Yongdungpo District, Seoul on the early morning of April 10.

On the front of the leaflet was a picture of President Kim Il-song with a bright smile.

On the reverse were a notation of a song praising President Kim Il-song with such words as "this land of paradise is associated with his smile" and a picture of Mangyongdae, his native village.

DPRK: ROK 'Fascist Suppression' of Students Denounced

SK1204135496 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0822 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — A meeting denouncing the Kim Yong-sam group's fascist suppression of the South Korean students in a just patriotic struggle was held by teachers and students of Kim Chaek University of Technology on Thursday.

The meeting was full of voices of anger denouncing the Kim Yong-sam fascist group for murdering the students No Su-sok and Kwon Hui-chong by driving out thousands of riot police to indiscriminately crack down on the righteous struggle of the South Korean students.

The speakers said the reality of South Korea shows that if the fascist murderer and kingpin of thieves such as the traitor Kim Yong-sam is left alive the students and the people can neither materialize their desire for independence, democracy and reunification nor avoid death as that of the students No Su-sok and Kwon Hui-chong.

They said that the South Korean students must unyieldingly continue the struggle for ousting the traitor Kim Yong-sam without fail and achieving independence, democratization of society and national reunification and that the educators must actively help the students in the just patriotic struggle.

DPRK: Educator Decries ROK Regime 'Brutalities' Against Students

SK1204144196 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0844 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — Yi Tong-chun, vice-minister of Higher Education under the State Education Commission, sharply denounced the Kim Yong-sam group for killing the innocent student No Su-sok, in the name of the entire educators of the northern half of Korea.

"It was only too natural that the South Korean students took to streets in opposition to the puppet clique's scheme to hike up registration fee and in denunciation of the corrupt politics of the 'civilian' dictatorial 'government'. This can never be a target of cruel suppression," he said.

"Their atrocities of mercilessly beating the student No to death remind one of the shuddering brutalities committed by the military dictators in cruelly murdering the students Yi Han-yol and Kang Kyong-tae, who attended peaceful demonstrations, in the past."

"If the murderous Kim Yong-sam group is left alone the South Korean students and the people can neither stop themselves from being cruelly killed nor can the entire fellow countrymen avert the disaster of war," he stressed.

"I am firmly convinced that professors of South Korea will valiantly turn out in the struggle against Kim Yong-sam and 'New Korea Party' alongside the students who have stood up in the struggle for revenging the blood of the student No Su-sok," he added.

DPRK: South Koreans To Commemorate Kim Il-song's Birthday

SK1304091396 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0759 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — Ideology study circles active in Seoul vowed to significantly commemorate the 84th birth anniversary of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the sun of chuche, Seoul-based Radio Voice of National Salvation [VNS] quoted the Seoul city committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea as saying in its information.

The members of the April 15 fellowship society met and discussed the propaganda program for commemorating the anniversary. They decided to organize such activities on the eve of the April 15 holiday as a lecture "President Kim Il-song is immortal in the hearts of the 70 million fellow countrymen," an academic symposium,

wallpaper publication, a photo exhibition, dissemination of songs and a seminar on his reminiscences.

The February 16 Taeyang (Sun) Society, the Society of Patriotic Youths for Reunification, the Saeppyo (Morning Star) Fellowship Society and the Society for the Study of Independent Philosophy also held meetings and discussed propaganda activities for the anniversary.

DPRK Radio Comments on Outcome of ROK Legislature Elections

*SK1304144396 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
1222 GMT 13 Apr 96*

[Commentary by Kim Ho-sam: "Due Judgment on Treacherous Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 15th puppet legislature elections took place in South Korea on 11 April.

As has already been predicted, the recent elections were filled with suppressions and fraudulence, unprecedented in history, given the fact that the Kim Yong-sam clique mobilized all powers and money. Even though the elections were carried out under a situation in which all the power and money were mobilized and unlawfulness and fraudulence ran amok, the outcome turned out to be dominated by the opposition camp. This outcome was precisely what we had foreseen.

Traitor Kim Yong-sam's New Korea Party [NKP] was far from obtaining a majority among the 299 seats, thus, the opposition camp succeeded in securing a majority. Such result is the inevitable consequence of criminal acts, such as flunkeyist, treacherous, and fascist acts, murders, and burglaries, committed by the traitor Kim Yong-sam and his private party, the NKP.

The NKP cronies are now describing the outcome of this elections as a success. A so-called spokesman of the NKP election campaign management committee cried that the election result ended up as their success as soon as the puppet legislature elections were over. However, it is an absurd remark that does not fit reality. This can be seen from the sluggish voter turnout. According to records, 71.9 percent of eligible voters participated in the 14th puppet legislature elections. However, only 63.9 percent of the total eligible voters went to the polls in the 15th puppet legislature elections. In other words, voter participation in the recent election was down 8 percent from the previous elections. To put it concretely, more than one third of eligible voters, 36.9 percent, turned their backs on the recent elections. This vividly shows that they are disgusted with the policies of Kim Yong-sam and the NKP and that they are against them.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam appointed Yi Hoe-chang and Pak Chan-chong, his close confidants, as chairman of the National Election Campaign Committee and chairman of the Metropolitan Area Election Campaign Committee, respectively. He also handed out money and goods profusely, endlessly conducted malicious propaganda to disparage candidates from opposition parties, and even committed hooliganism and had group fights with members of opposition parties at places where candidates delivered campaign speeches.

The seriousness of their irregularities and hooliganism can be proven by the fact that 54 NKP candidates were booked for election-related charges, even though the puppet prosecution and police were turning a blind eye. Nevertheless, the Kim Yong-sam ring failed to fulfill its objective. The NKP's defeat in the election resulted, as we stated before, from its antipopular antireunification policies.

If we look back, after taking power, the traitor Kim Yong-sam turned all of South Korea into a worse wasteland of democracy and human rights than any other regime in history did. Also, not content with the introduction of the U.S. nuclear weapons into South Korea, it accelerated its own nuclear development and tried to inflict a nuclear catastrophe on the entire nation. And, various incidents involving graft took place almost daily. As a result, the South Korean people could not live comfortably even for a day.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam also led North-South relations to the worst situation and completely blocked and froze dialogue. Moreover, he strained the situation to the utmost, and, as a result, a Korean war may break any moment. It is a matter of course that South Korean people could not support the nation's archenemies and enemies of reunification.

It is clear the Kim Yong-sam ring will make more desperate efforts to change the political situation, in which the opposition parties won more seats than the ruling party, to its advantage.

It is well known that the traitor Kim Yong-sam, who is at the end of his ropes due to the slush fund scandal and graft cases, is perpetrating various mean maneuvers and machinations to save himself. However, this will not let the traitor Kim Yong-sam find ways for his survival or change the political situation in which the opposition parties won more seats than the ruling party. The more desperate efforts the traitor Kim Yong-sam and NKP cohorts make, the more they will hasten their own destruction.

South Korean people will unite strongly and fight more resolutely until they completely drive out the traitor Kim

Yong-sam and the NKP cohorts from the South Korean political stage.

DPRK: Newspapers Report NKP Suffered 'Disgraceful Defeat'

SK1404073496 *Pyongyang KCNA, in English*
0723 GMT 14 Apr 96

["Disgraceful Defeat of Ruling Party in South Korea"
— KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] *Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)* — The ruling "New Korea Party" [NKP] of the traitor Kim Yong-sam suffered a disgraceful defeat, winning far less than 150 seats, its least target, even by means of violence and swindles in the "15th National Assembly election" in South Korea on April 11, say newspapers here today.

The defeat of the "New Korea Party" is the inevitable outcome of the Kim Yong-sam group's anti-social, anti-national, anti-reunification and treacherous politics, NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary says, and goes on:

The results of the election show well how much the Kim Yong-sam group is isolated and rejected by the people.

Concentric returns of candidates of the "New Korea Party" in the election in Pusan and North and South Kyongsang Provinces prove that the traitor Kim and his private party the "New Korea Party" are a president and a party of a limited area.

The failure of the "New Korea Party" will inevitably lead to a political chaos in South Korea and the Kim group and the "NKP" have been unqualified to form and operate "government" single-handedly.

The Kim group, a target of overthrow by people, should admit its defeat in the election and step down from power without delay.

MINJU CHOSON in a signed commentary says that the results of the "election" are an inevitable product of the harsh fascist rule, dependent policy, and anti-national, anti-reunification moves of the traitor Kim Yong-sam and the "NKP".

DPRK: Meeting Held To Mark Kim Il-song's Birthday

SK1404100096 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0933 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] *Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)* — A national meeting was held at the Pyongyang indoor stadium today to commemorate the 84th birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Placed against the background of the red flag was a portrait of President Kim Il-song.

Attending the meeting were Vice-presidents Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol, Politburo members of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), and Vice-president Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, and other senior party and state officials, leading officials of the party, power and administrative and economic organs and public organisations, anti-Japanese revolutionary veterans, soldiers of the Korean People's Army and working people in the city.

Also present were Kim Su-sik, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), and overseas compatriots.

Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, delivered a report.

The reporter said that the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song's birthday was the most significant day when the Korean nation greeted the great sun of chuche for the first time in their history spanning 5,000 years and a day of great fortune common to humankind when a fundamental turn was marked in hewing out the destiny of the Korean people and the bright future of the human cause of independence.

His glorious life, Choe Tae-pok noted, was a noble history of revolutionary struggle of a great revolutionary and a great leader who performed undying feats for the country, people, times and revolution through his outstanding ideological and theoretical activities and great practice of revolution.

The reporter further said:

The history of humankind does not know such "greatest man" and "most illustrious leader" as Comrade Kim Il-song, who performed imperishable exploits all his life in the 20th century full of breath-taking events with rare grandeur and the spirit of the most devoted service for the people, for which he was boundlessly worshipped and praised by the people in his lifetime and is alive in inseparable bonds of kinship with the people as the bright eternal sun of all people even after his death.

He experienced all sufferings and overcame all sorts of difficulties in making revolution with his unbreakable will all his life, had a long journey of on-the-spot guidance without a moment's rest, mixing himself with the people and worked devotedly for accelerating socialist construction, improving the people's living

standard and achieving the reunification of the country at an early date.

He was a great man of justice and zeal and the supreme incarnation of genuine human love who had an infinite love for the people and devoted his all to the people.

In the whole period of his revolutionary activities he waged an energetic struggle for global independence, strengthened international solidarity for our revolution and made enduring contributions to the development of the international communist movement, the revolutionary movement of the world and the Non-alignment Movement under the uplifted banner of independence and of anti-imperialist struggle; he enjoys unbounded praise and trust as the most experienced, reputed socialist political leader in the present era and veteran of the international communist movement and continues encouraging powerfully the just cause of the revolutionaries and progressive peoples all over the world.

The respected Comrade Kim Chong-il is a great heir, an outstanding leader of the Workers' Party of Korea and people who regards it as his lifelong mission to carry to completion the revolutionary cause of chuche started by Comrade Kim Il-song and is creditably realising it; he is the most loyal subject who has most perfectly personified the fidelity and filial piety to the leader on the highest level.

He has built the Kumsusan Memorial Palace as the most holy place of chuche and the greatest national treasure of the Kim Il-song nation with a firm faith and will to hold in higher esteem Comrade Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation, than in his lifetime and to carry to completion the revolutionary cause of chuche and preserve him in state, thus performing the most valuable and brilliant exploit of filial piety which will shine for all ages.

The Kumsusan Memorial Palace is the expression of the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il's utmost sincerity for the great Comrade Kim Il-song, which mirrors the unanimous desire and earnest wish of the whole party, the whole Army and all the people to uphold and follow Comrade Kim Il-song as the eternal leader of the WPK and revolution for all ages and the house of the eternal sun where he is preserved in state.

Since Comrade Kim Chong-il leads the WPK and revolution and there is a faithful and good people who follow their leader and cherish his ideology, traits and moral obligation as their unshakable faith and creed, Comrade Kim Il-song will be immortal as the eternal leader of the WPK and revolution and the sun of chuche; he will powerfully encourage the just cause of the Korean people and the progressive mankind of the world to a new struggle and victory.

The reporter quoted the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Being unfailingly loyal to the great leader through all generations is the duty of revolutionaries and the highest expression of the sense of revolutionary obligation. Revolutionaries must resolutely defend the ideas and exploits of the leader and loyally carry forward his revolutionary cause."

We should continue upholding the red flag associated with the whole life of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, get united more firmly around the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, do all things the way Comrade Kim Il-song did and resolutely defend and glorify Comrade Kim Il-song's idea and feats and the revolutionary traditions established by him generation after generation, the reporter said. Referring to the tasks of carrying them out, he went on to say:

In particular, all the party members and people, men and officers of the People's Army should be unfailingly loyal to the ideology and guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il, carry forward the spirit displayed by the valiant fighters of the Seventh Regiment of the anti-Japanese guerrilla army in defending Comrade Kim Il-song and become true loyal subjects and human bombs of resolutely defending the respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il politically and ideologically.

Calling attention to the ill-boding intensive military movements of the bellicose South Korean authorities in the areas South of the Military Demarcation Line that can be seen on the eve of war, the reporter said: We cannot remain an onlooker to them. To take self-defensive measures in this regard is the exercise of our legitimate right to self-defence that no one dare take issue with. Confident of our just cause we will not mind whatever any one says nor change our determined position.

We should maintain full combat posture with more sharpened vigilance than ever before to cope with the obtaining situation and carry through the self-reliant military line of the party to increase in every way the politico-military potentials of the People's Army and establish firmer nation-wide defence system.

The United States should show an immediate response to the most reasonable and fair and aboveboard proposal of the DPRK Government for a durable peace on the Korean peninsula and stop egging the South Korean rulers on to a reckless war exercise.

If the enemies dare encroach upon an inch of land and a blade of grass in our country with a foolish dream of stifling us at any cost, our people and People's Army

will adopt a tough self-defensive measure to defeat them at one stroke.

Our victory is certain and the socialist cause of chuche, the revolutionary cause of Comrade Kim Il-song, will emerge victorious forever because Comrade Kim Chong-il leads the WPK, the state and the revolutionary armed forces and there is a singlehearted unity of our revolutionary ranks firmly united around the party and the leader.

Vice-chairman of the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee, Kim Su-sik, spoke at the meeting.

DPRK: Russia Signature Campaign Supports DPRK New Peace Mechanism

SK1204135096 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0831 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 10 (KCNA) — A signature campaign supporting the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for a new mechanism for a durable peace in the Korean Peninsula was launched in Moscow with a ceremony under the sponsorship of the Russian Association for Friendship and Cultural Cooperation With the DPRK.

The appeal adopted at a joint emergency meeting of the Asian Regional Committee for Supporting Korean Reunification and the Indian Committee for supporting Korean reunification was read and a statement responding to it was made public at the ceremony.

The statement said a new mechanism for ensuring a complete, comprehensive and lasting peace should be established in the Korean Peninsula. "Just is the proposal of the DPRK, which has constantly called for a peace agreement with the United States for that purpose," it said.

"We fully support the call of the Asian Regional Committee and the Indian Committee on the governments, political parties and organizations of all countries, international bodies and peaceloving peoples to take part in a worldwide signature campaign," it added.

At the ceremony, a special committee for promoting the signature campaign was formed. Then, the participants in the ceremony signed the signature paper.

The signature campaign continues till April 1997.

DPRK: Statement by Russian Communists on 'Pyongyang Declaration'

SK1204135196 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0827 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — The all-union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, the

union of Communist Parties- the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Russian Communist Workers' Party and the "Working Russia" movement made public a joint statement in Moscow on April 9 four years since the Pyongyang declaration "Let Us Defend and Advance the Cause of Socialism" was adopted on April 20, 1992.

The statement said the significance and validity of the Pyongyang Declaration have been proven with each passing day. "The declaration confirmed that the cause of socialism and communism remains and will be alive forever," it added.

"The progressives of the world," it said, "are expressing their heartfelt respect for the Korean party and its leaders the esteemed Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, who initiated the adoption of the Pyongyang Declaration, in the grim period when socialism came upon grave challenges of imperialism and reactionaries of the world, and have played a distinguished role in the struggle to defend socialism and rebuild it."

It stated:

"We call upon all the parties which signed the Pyongyang Declaration to conduct more vigorous activities to defend and develop in depth the cause of socialism and intensify activities for information, support and solidarity with one another.

"We reaffirm that we will be unboundedly faithful to the Pyongyang Declaration."

DPRK: PRC, Russian, Chongnyon Delegations Arrive 13 Apr

SK1304112996 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1026 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Wuqiao International Acrobatic Festival Committee of China and a delegation of the Maritime State Agricultural Academy of Russia led by its rector Aleksey Demin arrived here today.

A delegation of officials of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) headed by vice department director of its Central Standing Committee Yi Han-su and a delegation of Japan- resident Korean female traders and industrialists headed by Kim Il-sun, chairwoman of the Central Standing Committee of the Democratic Union of Korean Women in Japan, a home-visiting group of students of Korean University of Chongnyon and the 259th home-visiting group of Japan- resident Koreans arrived here on Friday for a visit to the socialist motherland.

DPRK: Russian Party Leaders Send Floral Baskets to DPRK Embassy

*SK1504064496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0401 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[All names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 13 (KCNA) — Oleg Shenin, chairman of the Council of the Union of Communist Parties-the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and V.I. Anpilov, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Communist Workers' Party of Russia and chairman of the Executive Committee of "Working Russia" Movement, sent floral baskets to the Korean Embassy in Moscow on April 11 on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

On the same day, a floral basket came also from Marshal D.T. Yazov, former defence minister of the Soviet Union.

DPRK: Vice-Premier Hong Song-nam Meets Ethiopian Delegation

*SK1204134296 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1133 GMT 12 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — Vice-Premier Hong Song-nam met and had a friendly talk with the government delegation of Ethiopia led by Minister of Finance Sufian Ahmed at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Present there were Yun Ki-chong, minister of finance, Choe Pong-su, vice-chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission.

DPRK: Radio Reports Signing of DPRK-Russia Economy Protocol

*SK1304040396 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
1300 GMT 12 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] A protocol of the first meeting of the Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, and Science and Technology between the DPRK Government and the Russian Federation Government was signed at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on 12 April.

Vice Premier Hong Song-nam; Vice Foreign Minister Yi In-kyu; Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of the External Economic Committee; and other functionaries concerned, participated in the signing ceremony. The Russian Federation Government delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Vitaliy Ignatenko and Yuriy Fadeyev, Russian ambassador to the DPRK, were also on hand.

The protocol was signed by Vice Premier Hong Song-nam and Deputy Prime Minister Vitaliy Ignatenko.

DPRK: Working People's Organisations Pledge Allegiance

*SK1304040096 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0315 GMT 13 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — Officials and members of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea [UAWPK] and the Korean Democratic Women's Union met to vow to remain faithful to the leadership of the respected general Kim Chong-il on April 11 and 12 on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Meetings called for cherishing the behests of President Kim Il-song and the fortune and pride of having illustrious leaders generation after generation, having an absolute worship for and following General Kim Chong-il, the fate and future of the country, and remaining loyal to his idea and guidance.

Trade union officials and members vowed to become honorable innovators and performers of feats in the implementation of the party's revolutionary economic strategy and fully demonstrate the spirit of socialist Korea.

UAWPK officials and members resolved to do farming on a scientific and technical basis as demanded by the chuche method of farming and to bring about bumper crops.

Women's union officials and members made up their minds to become revolutionaries and be modeled on the working class and rear posterity to be reliable builders of socialism.

A letter of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il or a resolution was adopted at the meetings.

DPRK: Foreign State Leaders on Friendly Ties With DPRK

*SK1304093896 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0818 GMT 13 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — Nigerian and Sierra Leonean state leaders said when they met the DPRK ambassadors to their countries that the friendly and cooperative relations with the DPRK would be continued to develop.

General Sani Abacha, head of state and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, noted that Nigeria will continue to develop cooperation with the DPRK in the economic, social, cultural and all other domains.

He hoped that the Korean people will achieve the reunification of the country and eternal prosperity under the wise leadership of His Excellency Marshal Kim Chong-il, the great leader.

Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, president of Sierra Leone, said that the Korean people have achieved great success in all fields of the national economy while defending socialism under the leadership of his excellency the great leader Kim Chong-il.

He stressed that Sierra Leone values the friendship with Korea and will develop cooperation with Korea in various fields.

DPRK: 'Arafat Sends Floral Basket to Kim Il-song's Statue

*SK1304112496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1023 GMT 13 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — A floral basket came from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The floral basket was laid before the statue of President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill today by Palestinian Ambassador to Korea Shahir Mohammed [name as received] and his embassy officials.

DPRK: Brazilian, Pakistani Party Delegations Arrive 13 Apr

*SK1304112696 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1024 GMT 13 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — A delegation of the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil led by a member of its Central Committee, Marcia Campos, and a delegation of the Sind provincial committee of the Pakistan People's Party led by secretary of the provincial committee of the party Shamin N. D. Khan [name as received] arrived here today.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Sends Educational Aid Fund to Chongnyon

*SK1504072296 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0405 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent educational aid fund and stipends for the democratic and national education of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) amounting to 216 million Japanese yen.

The educational aid fund and stipends remitted by the respected leader President Kim Il-song and Comrade

Kim Chong-il until now for children of Korean residents in Japan total 42,817,032,433 yen in 134 installments.

DPRK: Choe Tae-pok Marks Kim Il-song's Birthday

*SK1504060196 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean
0703 GMT 14 Apr 96*

[Report by Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and secretary of the party Central Committee, at the central report meeting marking the 84th birth anniversary of Kim Il-song held at Pyongyang Gymnasium — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrades: Today, we observe the historic birth anniversary of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, which is the greatest holiday of the nation, with all the people all over the country, being filled with heart-piercing longings and feelings of deep reverence for the fatherly leader.

The birthday of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song was the most significant day in which the great chuche sun rose for the first time in our nation's 5,000-year-old history. It was also a day of great fortune common to mankind when a fundamental turn was marked in hewing out the destiny of our people and the bright future of the human cause of independence. [applause]

The entire glorious life of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song was a lofty history of revolutionary struggle of a great revolutionary and a great leader who achieved immortal accomplishments for the fatherland, the people, times, and the revolution with his unusual ideological and theoretical activities, and brilliant practice of revolution. It was also a sacred history of a great man and a benevolent father who believed in the people as in heaven and who gave everything to endow them with the true sense of life and happiness.

The undying feats of the great leader [widaehan suryong], who devoted his entire life to the victory of the people's cause of independence and their socialist cause, shed bright lights as the greatest feat in the history of mankind as well as in the history of the communist movement. [applause]

Greeting 15 April of this year which marks the second anniversary of the passing away of the great leader [widaehan suryong], our people are all the more painstakingly recalling the greatness and heavenly benevolence of the leader [suryongnim], which

they hardly realized while enjoying the happiness ensured by the fatherly leader when he was alive. They keenly realize the fact that they marched ahead victoriously along the glorious road of revolution led by the great leader [widaehan suryong] in the past.

Our people observe the April holiday amid the pains of having lost the fatherly leader unexpectedly. However, they are overflowing with firm confidence in and optimism over the cause of the leader, the cause of chuche revolution, which the great leader [suryong] pioneered and added luster to, because they now enjoy the fortune of having great leaders through generations and uphold the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] who is identical to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. [applause]

At this meaningful place where we commemorate the historic day in which the fatherly leader was born, we, with endless admiration and flaming loyalty of all the people and officers and men of the People's Army, pay the most lofty respects to and extend the greatest honor and boundless thanks to Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people — who performed undying feats for the nation, the people, times, and mankind, and who pioneered the victorious road for the Korean revolution with the banner of chuche idea from his earlier days. [applause]

Comrades: The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the absolute leader who our people upheld for the first time in history, spanning several thousands of years, and a father of our nation, as well as the great sun of mankind who is supported by the whole world.

By upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, our nation, which suffered many ordeals, has come to shed its light as the most powerful, dignified, and independent nation; our country has come to enjoy its reputation as being a powerful chuche-oriented socialist country which no one dares to touch; and our times have become known as new times of history in which the popular masses pioneer their own destiny by becoming the masters of their destiny.

Our nation is the Kim Il-song nation that was reborn on the arena of history by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, and our fatherland is Kim Il-song's Korea, which shines brightly with the fatherly leader's ideas and leadership. [applause]

The great leader's [widaehan suryongnimui] lofty features and noble looks — from his great ideas and theories, extraordinary leadership ability, lofty graciousness, unconstrained temper, to his frugal life, are an outstand-

ing mettle that is unprecedented in history, winning admiration from the entire world.

With each passing day, our people and the world's progressive mankind further cherish deep in their hearts that the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song [kyongaehanun kimilsong tongji] was a great man born with such great features.

Although the heart of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song stopped beating, the fatherly leader now stays with all our people and mankind as he did in the past.

The great leader [widaehan suryong] lives forever as a kernel of the singlehearted unity of the leader [suryong], the party, and the masses and as a founder of socialist Korea which resembles the looks of the leader [suryong].

The noble history of the great leader [suryong] continues to live with the prosperity and enrichment of our fatherland in which the fatherly leader's behests fully bloom. Since the day the great leader [widaehan suryong] passed away, our people have not forgotten the fatherly leader for a single day. They think about the leader [suryong] in joy or in sorrow, and recall the leader's [suryongui] brilliant life and his great revolutionary history devoted for the fatherland, the people, the times, and mankind.

Truly, our people are forever family members of the great leader [widaehan wuryong] who cannot live for one minute if they are apart from the bosom of the fatherly leader. [applause]

The history of mankind records numerous stories of struggles by great men, stories that people do not forget for a long time. However, only the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song is a great man of great men and a leader of leaders [suryongjungui suryong] who was boundlessly admired and respected by the people when he was alive and who casts bright rays for all people and enjoys an eternal life with inseparable ties with the people. This is because he was boundlessly great, had a spirit of devoted service to the people, glorified his entire life throughout the turbulent 20th century, and brought about immortal achievements. [applause]

Today, our people realize that the nation is very fortunate because it is upholding great Comrade Kim Il-song [widaehan kimilsong tongjirul] as leader [suryong]. They also firmly believe in the leader's [suryongnim] eternal life. This is because the leader's [suryongnim] ideology and leadership are great and that the achievements which the leader [suryongnim] brought about for the era and mankind are great.

The great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song victoriously led the arduous anti-Japanese struggle for 20 years. And, after the liberation, he led the country and people for half a century. The leader's [suryong] greatness lies in the greatness of his ideology, and the leader's [suryong] ideology is a blood line that unites the people with a single ideology.

The great leader [widaehan suryong] of the working class lives eternally with the great ideology — which he created — and with the people who, considering the leader's [suryong] ideology to be nutrition, are carrying out the revolution.

The chuche idea, which was created by the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song, is the most correct guiding idea on revolution and construction that reflected the independent demands and aspirations of the popular working masses of our era. It is also an ideological banner of invincibility. [applause]

The chuche idea is a man-centered great philosophical idea and a revolutionary outlook on the world that elucidates the victorious road of our era, the era of independence. Today, believing in the chuche idea and following it is an unstoppable trend of the times, worldwide support for the chuche idea is growing every day.

As it did in the past, the chuche idea will also eternally cast its ray as the spirit of the Kim Il-song nation and its lifeline, and our people and mankind will carry out the popular masses' cause of independence and build a new world of independence under the ray of the chuche idea. [applause]

The great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song is an eternal teacher and eternal benefactor who built our great party and country and raised the Army and people with farsighted wisdom, scientific insights, iron will, and outstanding and tested leadership, qualities no one could match, and who gave our people an ever-lasting basis for boundless happiness and the brilliant future of our revolution. [applause]

No politician or genius of creation and construction can match Comrade Kim Il-song, the respected and beloved leader [kyongachanun suryong], in terms of the greatness of leadership for the socialist cause.

From the first period of building a new society following achieving the cause of national liberation to the last moment of his revolutionary life, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, as the head of our party and the Republic, created a new history of people-oriented politics, taking upon himself the heavy burden of the party and the revolution. The founding of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], the glorious party of

chuche, and the strengthening and development of the party into an invincible political organization are the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's great achievements which will shine forever. [applause]

Clearly engraved in the arduous road that our party has traversed and its road of victory which is full of glory are the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's noble traces. The great achievements that our party has registered and our party's invincible might and great dignity are also linked as one to the revered name of the fatherly leader [suryongnim]. The glorious history of struggle that our party is creating today is not only the continuation of the history of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary activities, but also its deepening and development into a high stage. Shining amid our party's constant activities are the great leader's [suryongnim] ideology and achievements, and shining in the dignified canvas of our party, which is always advancing forward, is the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's image, which is the eternal symbol of all our victories and glory.

Our party, which has pioneered history according to the great leader's [suryongnim] ideology and will, is precisely the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's party that will be with the leader [suryongnim] forever. [applause]

Our fatherland, our country, which the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il built and glorified, is the residential site [tojon] for the entire Korean nation and is the popular mass-centered socialist fatherland.

The achievements that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song registered in building the great socialist fatherland by devoting his whole energy to the people and working together with the people are precisely the eternal assets of our revolution. Our country of chuche, our fatherland of chuche, which the leader [suryongnim] regained and brought into full bloom, is the eternal nest of happiness for our generation and our next generations.

All the beautiful and precious things in the DPRK, our glorious fatherland, have been created by the hands of the great leader [suryongnim] and our people's rewarding life and boundless happiness have been brought into full bloom by his hands, too. This is why the fatherly leader [suryongnim] has been invariably cherished in all of our minds as the eternal appearance of the fatherland in the past as well as at present. [applause]

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's glorious life was the brilliant life of a great human being and a great revolutionary who completely devoted his all energy and minds to not only the happiness of our people, but also to the eternal happiness of our next generations and to the future of the

fatherland and the revolution with the loftiest view on life as a genuine communist. [applause]

The great leader's most brilliant farsightedness is that he has perfectly resolved the issue of inheriting the leadership to consummate the chuche revolutionary cause in our country. [applause]

While witnessing the tragic incident during the past several years in which socialism collapsed and capitalism was restored in many countries, we are all the more ruminating with full-hearted emotion over how wise and fortunate it was for the Great Leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song to have sincerely provided long time ago for the party's organizational and ideological basis and leadership system for developing the future of our revolution through his clairvoyant wisdom.

During his whole life, the respected and beloved leader [kyongaehanun suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song overcame all hardships which man can suffer and all kinds of trials in the revolutionary road through indomitable will. Even without a moment's rest, he walked again and again on the road of on-the-spot guidance and mixed himself with the people. He also worked devotedly for accelerating socialist construction, improving the people's living standards, and achieving the fatherland's reunification at an early date.

During the young age of when he was in his teens he advanced toward the revolutionary road and in his twenties he achieved fame as a young general and a worldwide commander. In his thirties he achieved the cause of the fatherland's liberation, and after liberation he built a mighty chuche-oriented revolutionary party and people's regime, and an iron-willed regular armed force. By victoriously leading the fatherland liberation war defeating the armed aggression by the U.S. imperialists, the two-stage serious social revolution, and multi-stage enormous socialist building cause, the Great Leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song built a strong socialist country of self-dependence, self-support, and self-reliant defense on this land. There was no genius of the revolution and construction, an ever-victorious iron-willed commander, and a sage of the revolution like him in any era or anywhere in the annals of history.

During his whole life of some 80 years, he devotedly embroidered it with endless work for the revolution; devoted his whole heart and energy to the party, fatherland, era, and man; and implemented all possible causes for the fatherland and people. After thoroughly putting the finishing touches on all his work, he passed away at his office. As such, just like the sun in the sky is eternal, the leader [suryong] of the people — who is pure, innocent, and lofty, and who is a great

revolutionary who is indomitable and strong — will be immortal in the minds of the people and will be immortal along with the advancing history and era. [applause]

The respected and beloved leader [kyongaehanun suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song was a great man of justice and zeal and the supreme incarnation of genuine human love who endlessly loved the people and devoted everything for the people. [applause]

Love toward the people and faith in man were the respected and beloved leader's [kyongaehanun suryongnim] natural disposition and source of all greatness. He gave laughter to all the people with his shining smile, and with his benevolence warm like the sun he embraced many people into his bosom. How can our people forget the Great Leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song's sacred appearance even though 1,000 or 10,000 years have passed?

Having endless love toward the people, during the arduous and rigorous revolutionary road he always shared happiness and sadness with the people and devoted everything in his life. As such, the human traits of the respected and beloved leader [kyongaehanun suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song can never be fully praised.

Today, the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses has been realized in our country; everyone respects revolutionary seniors and loves comrades with a noble moral sense of obligation, and devotedly struggles for the party, the revolution, the society, and groups; and true human relations based on comradely unity, cooperation, love, and trust are advanced. All this is because the fatherly leader's [suryongnim] great humanitarian trait and virtue prevails throughout society and has deeply been planted in all the people as their view of life and view of morals.

The Great Leader [Suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song's sublime love for the fatherland, human beings, and mankind is brilliantly shown by his immortal achievement of leading the Korean nation and mankind's independence cause to victory. Saying that the fatherland's reunification would be the best gift he could give to our people, the respected and beloved leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song made every effort to solve reunification problems. Thanks to his wise leadership and unremitting efforts, all Korean compatriots in the North, the South, and overseas have launched into the struggle to achieve national unity and the reunification cause under the banner of the nationwide common reunification program and are vigorously developing the road for the fatherland's reunification in a nationwide movement.

During the entire course of his revolutionary activities, the Great Leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song energetically carried out the struggle for independence of the entire world, upholding the banner of independence, the banner of the anti-imperialist struggle. By so doing, he strengthened the international solidarity of our revolution and made an immortal contribution to the international communist movement, the world revolutionary movement, and the Nonaligned Movement. Winning people's endless praise and confidence as the most seasoned and renowned socialist political leader of this age and as an elder of the international communist movement, he continues to vigorously encourage the cause of justice of all revolutionaries and progressive people of the world.

Today, our people bear the steadfast faith that the Great Leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song lives with us forever, languish for the fatherly leader [suryongnim] more and more as days and years go by, and uphold and follow him. Their loyalty and filial devotion is actively displayed because our people uphold the Great Leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il at the head of our party and revolution. [applause]

The succession of the popular masses' independence cause, the socialist cause, is the succession of the leader's [suryong] cause. When the successor of the leader is great, the leader can live forever and the leader's cause and achievements can be glorified forever. This is a stark truth of history and today.

Respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongachanun Kim Chong-il tongji] is a great successor and the outstanding leader [yongdoja] of our party and people who is brilliantly realizing the chuche revolutionary cause pioneered by the Great Leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song, considering it his life-long mission to succeed and complete it. He is also the loyal servant of loyal servants who is perfectly embodying his loyalty and filial devotion to the leader [suryong] at the highest level. [applause]

Because they uphold at the head of the party, the state, and the army respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il — who most closely assisted the Great Leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song for over 30 years and has wisely led the overall construction of the party, the army, and socialism along the single road of victory, shouldering the heavy burden of the party and the revolution — our party and people have the great honor to brilliantly succeed and complete the leader's [suryongnim] cause while upholding great Comrade Kim Il-song [widaehan Kim Il-song tongji] as the eternal leader [suryong] of our party and revolution.

Today, all the people across the country are invariably following the fatherly leader by wishing his eternal life and trusting him as their mental pillar, and rendering their single-hearted loyalty to him. This majestic outlook is the genuine aspect of our society, which takes after the great outlook of its leader. This is the sacred spirit of Kim Il-song Korea which has been fostered by the unswerving loyalty the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il has cherished toward the leader [suryong] and his cause and by his noble sense of morality and moral obligation. [applause]

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il embodied the rock-firm faith and will to inherit and accomplish the chuche revolutionary cause by more highly upholding Comrade Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation, than while he was alive. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has solemnly built the Kumsusan Memorial Palace as the supreme sacred place of chuche, where the leader [suryongnim] is respectfully laid in state, and as the greatest national asset for the Kim Il-song people. Thus, he made the most precious and valuable achievement of loyalty and filial piety, which will remain brilliant forever generation after generation. [applause]

The Kumsusan Memorial Palace embodies the highest degree of sincerity the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has dedicated to the fatherly leader by reflecting the unanimous aspirations and earnest desire of our entire party, the whole Army and all people to uphold and follow the great Comrade Kim Il-song as the everlasting leader of our party and revolution through all generations. The Kumsusan Memorial Palace is the house of the everlasting sun where the leader [suryongnim] is respectfully laid in state.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has brilliantly realized the national and all-mankind aspiration to highly uphold the respected and beloved leader [suryongnim] generation after generation. Thus, he created an example of communists who have a lofty sense of morality and political ethics in upholding their leader, which is unprecedented in the world's history. [applause]

As long as the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il stands at the van of our party and revolution and as long as there are loyal and excellent people who follow their leader by assuming his ideas, outlook and moral obligation as their firm faith, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will eternally live as the permanent leader of our party and revolution and as the sun of chuche; and will vigorously inspire our people and the world's progressive people into a new struggle and victory for the just cause. [applause]

Comrades, today we confront heavy yet glorious tasks to permanently glorify ideas and achievements that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song made by dedicating his whole life and to accomplish to the end the revolutionary cause of the leader [suryongnim] generation after generation.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out: It is a duty of revolutionaries and the highest revolutionary moral obligation to render loyalty to the great leader [suryong] generation after generation. Revolutionaries should unswervingly defend and protect the leader's ideas and achievements and should faithfully inherit and develop the leader's revolutionary cause.

As taught by the respected and beloved general, it is a basic guarantee for the victory of revolution and the highest expression of revolutionary moral obligation to render loyalty to the end to the leader [suryong], who opened the dawn of the revolution, and to his cause.

For revolutionaries, loyalty to their leader [suryong] should be invariable from the beginning to the end. Even though all things in the world change, loyalty to the leader [suryong] should be invariable.

All party members, the people, and officers and men of the People's Army should cherish the firm faith that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is with us forever and should defend and brilliantly consummate the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style provided by the fatherly leader [suryongnim].

We should achieve without fail the cause of national reunification that the leader [suryongnim] devoted all energy until the last moment of his life based on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity. [applause]

In the dawning period of the Korean revolution, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song pioneered the road of revolution, holding aloft the red flag of revolution, fighting his way through the sea of blood and the sea of fire. Thus, the leader [suryongnim] broke through the rough road of revolution, embroidered only victory on the canvas of revolution, and handed that red flag of victory over to us.

For our people, who are advancing while firmly holding aloft this sacred red flag, the symbol of faith and the banner of victory and glory, which was handed over by the great leader [suryongnim], there is no fortress that they cannot occupy.

We should continue to hold aloft the red flag which reflects the whole life of the great leader, firmly unite around the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il; and carry out all things in Comrade

Kim Il-song style. In this way, we should become the leader's [suryongnim] genuine sons and daughters who resolutely safeguard, defend, and consummate his ideology and achievements and his revolutionary tradition generation after generation. [applause]

Upholding the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership with loyalty is the loftiest work to guarantee the great leader's [suryongnim] eternal life with a pure and clean mind. Herein lies the genuine road which can uphold the fatherly leader [suryongnim] as the eternal leader [suryong] of our party and revolution and as the founder [sijo] of the socialist line forever and can achieve the final consummation of the chuche revolutionary cause.

All party members, the people, and officers and men of the People's Army should cherish deep in their hearts the great dignity and fortune of being blessed with the leader generation after generation; should be infinitely loyal to the ideology and leadership of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il who is our destiny and the highest brain [choego noesu]; and, thus, should become genuine loyalists and rifles and bombs which resolutely safeguard and defend the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander politically and ideologically and with their lives, upholding the slogan, "Let us resolutely defend the nerve-center of the revolution headed by great Comrade Kim Chong-il [widaehan kimchongil tongjirul subanurohanun] by following the spirit of defending the leader [suryong] displayed by the fighters of the 7th Regime of anti-Japanese struggle." [applause]

All party members, the people, and officers and men of the People's Army should firmly trust and follow only Comrade Kim Chong-il with the firm faith that as long as the comrade supreme commander is with us, we are victorious without fail; should resolutely and firmly defend the single-hearted unity of the party and the revolutionary ranks with the leader as the center [yongdojarul chungsimurohanun tanggwa hyongmaeng-daeo]; and should further strengthen the revolutionary discipline and order in which the entire party, all the Army, and all the people move as one under the great general's unitary leadership.

We are now building socialism in fierce confrontation with the allied forces of imperialists. In the current arduous times, the great general is vigorously encouraging all functionaries, party members, and people to work with redoubled efforts for the future of the fatherland and the happiness of coming generations, bearing the view of life and faith that they live today not only for today but also for tomorrow.

No one in the world can match one who is ready to die; this has been proved by the entire history of our revolution that has advanced along the single road of victory under the leadership of the great leader [suryongnim] and the respected and beloved general. With revolutionary faith and optimism, all functionaries, party members, and people should firmly fortify the three positions of socialism of our own style — the political and ideological position, the economic position, and the military position — while bravely overcoming all difficulties and obstacles on the road of advance by greatly displaying the spirit of arduous march and the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. They should also brilliantly glorify this meaningful year, in which the 70th anniversary of the forming of the Down-With-Imperialist Union by the great leader [suryongnim] will fall, as a historic year where we effect a greater victory and upsurge in the revolution and construction. [applause]

When he was alive, the Great Leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song elucidated programmatic guidelines, which all sectors and units of the socialist construction should firmly adhere to, as well as methods to implement them, for the endless growth and prosperity of the country and the boundless happiness of the people. All our functionaries, party members, and working people should historically and generally study in depth the teaching the great leader [suryongnim] gave to each unit and sector, and should thoroughly implement the leader's [suryongnim] behest and the party's revolutionary economic strategies. By so doing, they should strengthen the country's economic strength in every way and make the people's livelihood more abundant.

All functionaries, party members, and working people should have fervent love of the our country, our fatherland, which was founded by the great leader [suryongnim] and is being glorified by the respected and beloved general. With fervent patriotism, they should devotedly work for the growth, prosperity, and development of the country and for the people's happy lives, whether or not they are watched and recognized by someone else.

They should love even a small area of the territory, even a tree, even a plant of the fatherland, should carry out the work of neatening roads and rivers as a mass movement, and should more tenaciously tidy up cities and villages. This is the very sublime patriotic work of implementing the great leader's [suryongnim] behest, upholding the party's intent, increasing the material assets of the country, and making the territory of the fatherland a more beautiful and comfortable paradise of the people.

The recent military tensions on the Korean Peninsula are every moment leading closer to an unpredictable situation. Under these circumstances, the South Korean authorities and some insidious forces are seriously irritating us [urirul simhi chagukhago issumnida], while producing groundless rumors that are not at all helpful to settling the situation.

The rumor producers are deliberately distorting the essence of the very grave situation prevailing on the Korean Peninsula, raving that our self-defensive measure, which was aimed at preventing the breakout of a war and defending peace and security, is a political provocation aimed at some specific purpose and a tactic of diplomatic pressure on someone, and making a futile attempt to make the provokers the guardians of peace and the victims the destroyers of peace.

Because of the bellicose maneuvers by the South Korean authorities, ill-boding military moves that can be seen only on the eve of a war are being made extensively south of the Military Demarcation Line. And, even at this moment, dangerous games of fire reeking of gunpowder and aimed at attacking us are being perpetrated one after another in the air, on the land, and on the sea in South Korea.

The present developments show that the South Korean authorities' launching mechanism for northward invasion has already been cocked [namjoson tanggukchadurui pukchim kyokpalgiga imi tanggyojin sangtae iranun kosul] and that a war on the Korean Peninsula is not a matter of if but a matter of when [choson pandoeso chonjaengi ironagennunga malgennunga hanungosi anira kusijomi onjae inga hanunde ittanungosul].

The South Korean authorities' bellicose military moves are a grave challenge to and a provocation against us and an intolerable mockery of the entire nation aspiring after peace and peaceful reunification. We can never remain an onlooker to them, and taking a due self-defensive countermeasure is a legitimate exercise of our right to self-defense, with which no one can take issue.

Never forgiving any action that infringes on the security of the fatherland and the revolutionary accomplishments and responding to fire with fire and to a stick with a stick is the trait of our People's Army and people and their firm will. [applause]

Convinced of the justness of our cause, we will not mind whatever anyone says and never change our determined and adopted position.

To cope with the prevailing situation, we should strengthen the political and military might of the People's Army in every way and should firmly set up the nationwide and all-people defense system in

the entire country by maintaining higher alertness and fuller preparedness for combat than at any other time, thoroughly implementing the party's self-defensive military lines.

The United States should respond without delay to the most reasonable and aboveboard proposal advanced by the government of our Republic to ensure a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, and stop instigating the South Korean rulers to reckless exercises for northward aggression.

If the enemy dares encroach upon even an inch of our land and a blade of our grass, without abandoning its wild design to stifle us by strength, our people and the People's Army will take a powerful self-defensive step to annihilate it with one stroke [manyak won-suduli urirul kioi himuro apsalhaeboryonun mangsangul porijiangoo urijogugui hanchiuittang hanpogiui purirado kamhi kondurindamyon uri inmingwa inmingundaenun kangnyokhan chawijokchochiro choktural tanmae chit-munggaeborilgosimnida]. [applause]

All the people must attach great importance to the military of the whole country; must all the more thoroughly establish the social trait of sincerely learning from the military; and continue to highly manifest the traditional virtue of army-people unity.

The revolutionary road we must travel is long and difficult, but as long as there is the Great Leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il standing at the top of our party, state, and revolutionary armed forces, and as long as there is singlehearted unity of our revolutionary ranks firmly united around the party and the leader [suryong], our victory is definite and the socialist cause of chuche, the revolutionary cause of the great Comrade Kim Il-song, will eternally press hard on the heels of the enemy. [applause]

At this significant place celebrating the historic April holiday, filled with all the people's whole-hearted admiration and blazing mind of loyalty, we pray for the eternal life of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader [widaehan suryong] of our party and our people, who is the eternal sun of chuche and founder of the socialist Korea. Also, we once again give to the fatherly leader [oboi suryongnim] the greatest respect and eternal glory. [applause]

Long live the revolutionary ideology of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader [widaehan suryong] of our party and our people! [applause]

Long live the glorious WPK, which is the organizer and leader [hyangdoja] of all victories of the Korean people! [applause]

South Korea

ROK: Clinton Meetings With Japanese, ROK Premiers Previewed

SK1404034096 (Internet) The Digital Choson Ilbo
WWW in English 1235 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Editorial: "U.S.-Japan Military Cooperation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. President Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Hashimoto will meet in Tokyo to discuss a new U.S.-Japanese security system. The meeting will follow Clinton's trip to Cheju-to where he will meet President Kim Yong-sam on April 16. Of particular interest to Korea is the plan to expand the scope of military cooperation between the U.S. and Japan to cover situations of emergency or contingency.

As the current U.S.-Japanese agreement stands, the Japanese forces can assist or support the U.S. military in emergency situations confined to the areas north of the Philippines and in Far East Asia. This support includes providing gasoline and other supplies. The new security measures to be discussed will extend the scope of military cooperation to cover Northeast Asia. At the root of these discussions lie two factors: the changes in U.S. security policy regarding Northeast Asia in the post-Cold War era, and the recent tensions across the Taiwanese Strait.

Perhaps things will not change effectively for us, as Korea is within the area confined by the terms "north of the Philippines and Far East Asia." However, we still cannot take lightly the expansion of responsibility allowed the Japanese defensive forces. Because the economic world is not entirely free from military support, these new measures should be taken seriously with regard to the Kim administration's emphasis on "national competitiveness."

According to speculation, the new security system may include cooperative measures to rescue U.S. and Japanese nationals residing in Korea should war break out on the Korean Peninsula. Should such a situation arise which would merit the re-entrance of Japanese troops into Korea, we must call into question the destiny of our nation. We must remember that Korea today is totally different from the country of the 1950's when Korean war broke out. At that point, there were no Japanese in the country to evacuate.

Though riding on the wave of the recent general election, President Kim should not meet Clinton lightheartedly.

ROK: Hanchongnyon To Hold Rallies Against Clinton's Visit

*SK1304235696 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network
in Korean 2200 GMT 13 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Considering that there is a great possibility that the National Federation of General Councils of University Students [Hanchongnyon] will illegally occupy U.S.-related facilities in the wake of U.S. President Clinton's visit to the ROK, the Seoul Police Agency ordered police stations in the field to intensify their guard.

Having designated 15 and 16 April as days of opposition to U.S. President Clinton's visit to the ROK, Hanchongnyon plans to hold rallies in each district to oppose President Clinton's visit to the ROK, and following this, they intend to visit the U.S. Embassy, U.S. Cultural Center, and other U.S.-related organizations to protest.

ROK: Clinton-Kim Yong-sam Summit To Focus on Security Issues

*SK1404233596 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network
in Korean 2200 GMT 14 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] ROK and U.S. Presidents Kim Yong-sam and Bill Clinton will hold summit talks on Cheju Island on 16 April to intensively discuss security-related issues on the Korean Peninsula, such as the recent attempts to paralyze the armistice system by North Korea. During the summit talks, they will stress that the North Korean attempt to paralyze the Armistice Agreement is a grave challenge to the peace system on the Korean Peninsula. They will also discuss in depth strong countermeasures, such as the strengthening of the ROK-U.S. cooperation system and defensive posture for fixing security and peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The ROK and U.S. presidents will also reportedly hold a broad range of discussions on the expected influence of the U.S. East Asian security strategy and Japan's new security and defense policy to be exerted on the Korean Peninsula, as well as on U.S.-PRC relations following the recent Taiwan incident.

A ranking government official said: During the Cheju talks, the ROK and U.S. presidents will reconfirm the alliance between the two countries and their steadfast position that the Armistice Agreement system should be maintained to fix peace on the Korean Peninsula. They will also coordinate the two countries' policies on North Korea, including their policies on the improvement of inter-Korean relations.

Following the exclusive summit talks, Presidents Kim and Clinton will hold a joint news conference to announce the result of the talks.

Then the ROK and U.S. presidents will have a luncheon meeting with ministers concerned from both countries to hold working-level discussions on ways to strengthen mutual cooperation in a broad range of fields, including economy and trade.

President Kim will leave for Cheju Island on 15 April to attend the ROK-U.S. summit.

ROK: Clinton-Kim Yong-sam Meeting To Focus on North Korea

*SK1504012096 (Internet) The Chungang Ilbo WWW
in English 15 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Kim Yong-sam and United States President Bill Clinton will hold a summit meeting on Cheju Island on the 16th. The two heads of state will discuss in detail security issues concerning the Korean Peninsula including North Korea's recent attempts to nullify the Armistice Agreement.

President Kim and Clinton plan to stipulate that North Korea's announcement of its abandonment of its obligations to maintain the demilitarized zone (DMZ) as well as its military demonstrations are regarded as serious challenges to the stability of Northeast Asia and to the peace structure of the Korean Peninsula. The two heads of state will urge Pyongyang to observe the Armistice Agreement and will also reaffirm the United States' commitment to defending South Korea.

The two leaders will also make it clear that they will take strong and immediate countermeasures in response to North Korean aggression.

ROK: Kim, Clinton To Discuss Preserving Armistice Treaty

*SK1504050596 Seoul YONHAP in English
0435 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam and his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton will discuss joint measures that their two countries will take against North Korea's attempt to neutralize the 1953 Armistice Agreement, among other things, in their scheduled meeting on Cheju Island Tuesday [16 April].

At Cheju's Shilla Hotel, the two leaders, taking Pyongyang's recent violations of the truce pact as a grave challenge to the existing peace regime on the Korean Peninsula, will reconfirm America's defense commitment to South Korea and discuss measures to strengthen the joint Seoul-Washington security system for maintaining stability and peace on the peninsula.

Manifesting the need to maintain the Armistice treaty for achieving a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula,

Kim and Clinton will reconfirm the principle of solving Korean issues through inter-Korean dialogue and discuss improving bilateral cooperation in coping with the North Korean situation.

In addition, they will discuss Washington's East Asian security policy, Japan's new security and defense plan and its possible effect on the Korean Peninsula and Sino-American relations.

After their talks, the two leaders will hold a joint press conference to announce what they will have discussed and agreed. They will then sit at a working luncheon, with Kim's Cabinet ministers attending, including Foreign Minister Kong No-myong.

President Kim left for Cheju Monday morning, and is to meet with Kong and others to discuss preparations for the Cheju summit in the afternoon.

Scheduled to arrive in Cheju early Tuesday morning, Clinton will receive briefings by U.S. Ambassador to Seoul James Laney and U.S. Forces Korea Commander Gen. Gary Luck on recent developments on the Korean Peninsula.

Clinton has decided to extend his stay in Cheju from three to four hours to nine to 10 hours in view of the importance of the summit with Kim for future improvement of the Korean situation.

He will leave for Japan Tuesday afternoon.

ROK: Minister-Level Talks To Precede Clinton-Kim Talks 16 Apr

SK1504062996 Seoul YONHAP in English
0537 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP) — Foreign Minister Kong No-myong is going to meet with U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher and Defense Secretary William Perry Tuesday morning just prior to the meeting between President Kim Yong-sam and U.S. President Bill Clinton to discuss North Korea and other issues of bilateral concern, Foreign Ministry spokesman So Tae-won said Monday.

Kong is going to try to coordinate Seoul and Washington's positions on security and other issues so the two presidents can come up with a joint statement after their meeting on the southern resort island of Cheju.

One of the most important issues for Kong, Christopher and Perry will be reaffirming joint defense readiness for any eventuality involving North Korea, considering the heightened tensions precipitated by the North's recent deployment of armed troops to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a blatant violation of the Korean Armistice Treaty, according to ministry officials.

They will also discuss ways of inducing North Korea to make a "soft landing" by continuing to ease the economic sanctions imposed on Pyongyang by the United States. Reports have indicated that the United States is considering allowing firms doing business overseas to invest in North Korea directly.

Kong is also expected to try to coordinate the South Korean and United States position on the imminent talks regarding Pyongyang's transfer of missile technology countries in the Middle East and the repatriation of the remains of American soldiers missing-in-action since the Korean war.

South Korea has maintained that such talks should not develop into talks involving political or military issues.

Another pending issue is the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) revision, which regulates the legal status of American servicemen stationed in South Korea.

Kong and Perry agreed to conclude talks for the revision of the SOFA by the end of January when they met in Seoul last November, but several rounds of working-level SOFA talks have failed to produce results.

The two sides are at odds over how to define the crimes in which South Korean authorities can take suspects into custody prior to indictment, although they have agreed in principle that major offenses fall into this category.

Kong is also expected to explain South Korea's position on the new joint security declaration between Washington and Tokyo scheduled to be issued after President Clinton meets with Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto Wednesday.

South Korea and China are concerned about Japan's expanded military role in Northeast Asia, although the U.S. wants Japan to take a more active role in regional defense especially after the recent tension in the Taiwan Strait triggered by Beijing's missile-launching exercises in the strait.

Washington and Tokyo are reportedly preparing to issue a joint security declaration to allow American troops stationed in Japan to use civilian airports and seaports to facilitate U.S. military operations in Northeast Asia.

Japan's previous position, however, has been that its constitution prevents Japanese troops from engaging in military operations for collective defense outside of its own territory.

ROK: Proposed Four-Party Talks to DPRK To Resume Dialogue

SK1504082896 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN
in Korean 15 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Kang Tae-ho and Yi Sang-ki]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 14 April that following the 16 April ROK-U.S. summit, the ROK and the United States will propose holding four-party talks to be participated in by North and South Korea, the United States, and the PRC with a view to resuming North-South dialogue.

High-ranking ROK Government officials said the ROK and United States will announce this policy following the 16 April summit in order to resume the deadlocked North-South dialogue and to seek economic aid for North Korea with a view to preventing the rapid collapse of North Korea. In particular, there is a great possibility that the four-party talks will work as a basic structure to consolidate the peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula, thus attracting the people's attention.

In the event North Korea accepts this proposal, the ROK and United States will undertake a broad range of measures to lift economic sanctions, including giving permission for U.S. overseas business corporations to invest in North Korea; to allow the advance of U.S. business firms into special districts in North Korea, such as Najin-Sonbong zone; and to allow U.S. businesses to invest in North Korea's telecommunications field.

Since most U.S. businesses have overseas corporations, their advance into North Korea, if permitted, will be an epoch-making and practical step for allowing investments in North Korea by U.S. businesses.

It was also learned that a follow-up measure to the four-party talks proposal, the government is discussing plans among its relevant offices and agencies to manage and operate the DMZ; the reversion of wartime operational commands; and the building of military trust, including mutual disarmament.

On 11 April, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said: "During the ROK-U.S. summit, measures for promoting North-South dialogue will be discussed." In addition, Winston Lord, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, stated: "The issue of the additional lifting of economic sanctions against North Korea will be discussed during the ROK-U.S. summit."

ROK: U.S.-DPRK Talks Seen Levying Heavy Financial Burden on ROK

SK1404043196 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
14 Apr 96 p 2

[Article by staff reporter Son Kae-yong: "U.S.-NK Missile Talks Touch Off Row Over Compensation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States will enter into "missile talks" with North Korea next week amid concerns that Pyongyang will demand substantial compensation in return for its freeze of missile development and exports, as it did in previous nuclear talks.

North Korea watchers here fear that South Korea would be forced to shoulder a sizable portion of compensation in the framework of the Seoul-Washington defense alliance.

"If the dialogue between the United States and North Korea proceeds in the existing context, South Korea will have no option but to shoulder all the financial burden," said Chi Man-won, columnist on military affairs and president of the Institute for Social Systems Development.

According to the "agreed framework" reached by the United States and North Korea in Geneva in 1994, South Korea is obligated to play a central role in financing the 4-billion-dollar light-water reactor project in exchange for the North freezing its nuclear activities.

He noted that the South Korean Government should initiate dialogue with Pyongyang to achieve such goals as disarmament and confidence-building between them, rather than falling a victim to "Washington's two-Korea policies which will perpetuate inter-Korean rivalry amid heightened tension."

However, officials here view that Seoul would not be deeply involved in the talks, held at Washington's initiative, ruling out the possibility of Seoul joining in any financial deal. "The missile talks are basically aimed at alleviating Washington's concerns over Pyongyang's missile exports to Middle East countries," a Foreign Ministry official said.

Prior to the first U.S.-North Korea meeting on the missile issue, South Korea and the United States held consultation talks in Washington to coordinate their policies.

An official who participated in the talks told reporters that Seoul and Washington assessed their meeting on April 8 as "fruitful," and agreed to hold further talks in tandem with dialogue between Pyongyang and Washington.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Political and Military Affairs Robert Einhorn represented the U.S. side, while Yi Chang-ho, minister of the Korean Embassy in Washington, headed the Korean delegation. Einhorn is likely to represent the United States in the upcoming dialogue with North Korean officials.

The United States has long sought to discuss this issue with North Korea in order to curb the North from developing and exporting weapons of mass destruction to Middle East countries.

Therefore, Seoul, which has been negative on direct U.S.-North Korea talks, did not object to the missile talks, in spite of the North's recent incursions into the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a flagrant violation of the Armistice Agreement which ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

Instead, Korean officials requested that the United States pay more attention to preventing North Korea from improving its missile technology, the official said.

North Korea's development of nuclear weapons will be excluded from the agenda because the issue will be discussed in a different channel in accordance with the "agreed framework," he said. The agenda in the upcoming talks will therefore include the North's development of biological and chemical weapons, he added.

"We are not in the stage of discussing compensation for the North's suspension of missile development and exports," the official said, adding that Seoul doesn't plan to dispatch a Korean delegation to monitor dialogue between the United States and North Korea.

He said that it is unlikely that the United States and North Korea will touch on other issues besides weapons of mass destruction.

Meanwhile, the official said that South Korea and the United States had already reached an understanding on separate U.S.-North Korea talks aimed at discussing U.S. servicemen missing in action during the Korean War.

As the MIA issue is basically a humanitarian issue, it is not appropriate to give political significance to the talks, he said.

In previous talks, the U.S. side agreed in principle to pay for expenses in excavating the remains of U.S. servicemen. The exact amount was left unsettled.

ROK Stresses to U.S. Curbing DPRK Missile Capacity, Exports

SK1404044196 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. and North Korean negotiators will deal with North Korea's chemical and biological arms as well as its missiles during their meeting scheduled for Berlin this weekend, a South Korean Foreign Ministry official said yesterday.

"They will have an overall discussion on North Korea's arsenal of weapons of mass destruction," said Song Min-sun, the ministry's deputy director-general for American affairs.

The U.S. side will address North Korea's missile production and deployment as well as export, said Song, who met with Robert Einhorn, deputy assistant secretary of state for politico-military affairs and other U.S. officials in Washington early last week to consult on the upcoming U.S.-North Korea talks.

Einhorn is supposed to head the U.S. delegation to the arms talks with North Korea.

The North Korean side is expected to be led by Yi Hyong-chol, director-general of the American Affairs Bureau at the North Korean Foreign Ministry.

Song said he stressed to the U.S. officials that they should consider both the global and regional aspects of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction in holding the talks with North Korea.

The U.S. side agreed with the South Korean view that the North Korean missile issue should be approached from the viewpoint of countries, Song said.

During the first round of U.S.-North Korea arms talks, the two sides are not expected to go into detailed issues but table their basic positions.

Song said Seoul and Washington will continue to have close consultations in keeping with developments in the U.S.-North Korea talks.

Unlike in the past U.S.-North Korea nuclear talks South Korea has no plan to send its officials to monitor the upcoming arms talks, he said.

Song, who said the upcoming U.S.-North Korea talks will be strictly limited to North Korea's weapons of mass destruction ruled out the possibility that any other political issues will be raised during the talks.

ROK: U.S. Said Trying To Decide on Common DPRK Aid Policy

SK1504011196 (Internet) The Chungang Ilbo WWW in English 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A behind-the-scenes compromise between the two Koreas and the United States on economic cooperation by means of an inter-Korean dialogue may be in the works.

A high-placed South Korean Government source stated on the 14th that both the governments of South Korea and the United States are in agreement that priority should be placed on the recovery of North Korea's faltering economy in order to establish stable inter-Korean relations. Accordingly, the two governments are trying to decide on specific policies for assistance to North Korea. The source also added that "North Korea's deliberate escalation of military tension at the truce village of Panmunjom before last week's general elections in South Korea appears to have been a tactic to pressure the United States into signing a peace treaty as well as a call for economic assistance. At the moment, we are trying to figure out North Korea's real intentions."

Jinro Group's Vice-Chairman Pak Yong-su who returned from a week-long visit to Pyongyang beginning April 6, stated on the 14th to one of The Chungang Ilbo's reporters that his visit to "North Korea was permitted by Chongwadae (the Blue House)", hinting at the possibility that the delegation relayed South Korea Government's future plans to the North.

ROK: Kim Claims NKP Victory, Cites U.S.-ROK Summit

SK1304085596 Seoul YONHAP in English 0822 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam Saturday claimed that Thursday's parliamentary election ended in a victory for the ruling New Korea Party (NKP), noting that the ruling NKP won an overwhelming victory in Seoul.

NKP Spokesman Son Hak-kyu quoted Kim as also saying that "I will do my utmost until the end of my term to correct history and the country and seek stability through reform."

Son was briefing on the outcome of the luncheon hosted by Kim at the presidential residence of Chongwadae for Yi Hoe-chang, who led the ruling party's election campaign, and other key members of the NKP to appreciate their efforts for campaigning during the just-concluded parliamentary election.

Son also quoted President Kim as stressing that he will continue to make efforts toward national harmony and eradication of irregularities.

President Kim also urged those who attended the luncheon to make continued efforts for reforms accompanied by stability, saying that "The (ruling) party will have to take humble attitudes towards the election outcome and think over what the people need."

The president meanwhile instructed that any wrongdoings and illegal activities involving elections will have to be thoroughly investigated. "Those who violated election laws will be punished whoever they will be."

On the upcoming summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton Tuesday in Cheju Island, Kim said that "It will be a mistake if one thinks that the United States will accept North Korea's demands."

"North Korea well knows that," said Kim, adding that he will "make every efforts to make people feel a sense of relief."

Yi Hoe-chang urged, at the end of the luncheon, that the ruling party officials will have to continue to show the spirit of unity to successfully implement a variety of tasks without a hitch, although the ruling party won good results by showing a cooperative spirit during the campaign period for the parliamentary election.

National Assembly Speaker Hwang Nak-chu, ruling New Korea Party Chairman Kim Yun-hwan and a few other key postholders of the ruling party failed to attend the presidential luncheon.

Some of them took part in events at their constituencies and others were out of the country for official or unofficial businesses.

Kim's failure to attend the luncheon, among others, triggered speculation that he might have uneasiness over the election result especially in Taegu and North Kyongsang Province where he led the party's election campaigning.

ROK: U.S. Considering SOFA Revisions for 'Grave Crimes'

SK1304023896 Seoul YONHAP in English 0228 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 12 (YONHAP) — The United States is studying ways to revise the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with South Korea in a way that would allow local South Korean authorities to take U.S. Forces Korea members charged with grave crimes into their custody before they are indicted, a senior official at the Defense Department here said Friday [12 April].

The source said that South Korea and the United States are discussing in their SOFA revision negotiations on the matter of turning American criminal suspects handed over to the South Korean law-enforcement authorities at the time of indictment in almost all cases.

The U.S. side will, however, consider an amendment that will open the way for the South Korean Government to have them under its custody even before the indictment in cases they are involved in such felonies as murder or rape, the source said.

Under the current SOFA, such transfer is not made until after all legal procedures are completed, which sometimes takes several years.

Meanwhile, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry is scheduled to arrive on Cheju Island April 15 to meet with his South Korean counterpart Yi Yang-ho and Foreign Minister Kong No-myong to discuss SOFA revisions and security matters.

U.S. President Bill Clinton will visit Cheju the following day.

ROK: U.S. Request To Lift Tariffs on Paper Products Rejected

SK1204144596 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC WEEKLY in English 15 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Tariffs on paper imports will not be waived earlier than scheduled.

"The government will not accept the U.S. request to shorten the period of tariff imposition by five years from the originally targeted 2004," An Kwang-ku, vice minister of trade, industry and energy, made it clear at a meeting with domestic paper industry players.

In accordance with the Uruguay Round agreement, the tariff is scheduled to disappear step by step through 2004. "As the abrogation will result in weakening competitiveness, we have no reason to advance the date," he said.

Asking not to bow to the U.S. demand, industry representatives also called for the government to nullify tariffs on core raw materials of paper including wood chips and pulp. They contended that due to the heavy reliance on imports of the raw materials, management has been poor when the international prices increased.

ROK: Status of ROK Technicians in DPRK Mars KEDO Talks

SK1304021496 Seoul YONHAP in English 0158 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, April 12 (YONHAP) — North Korea is against granting diplomatic

privileges and immunities to South Korean technicians participating in the construction of light-water nuclear reactors under the agreement it concluded with the United States in Geneva late 1994.

This is a stumbling block for the working-level meeting between the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and the communist country which began discussing the implementation of the Geneva agreement Monday [15 April], a KEDO official said.

During the fifth day of discussions about the legal status, diplomatic privileges, immunities and consular protection protocol for KEDO personnel in North Korea for the reactor construction project Friday, the communist country opposed granting diplomatic privileges and immunities to engineers from the South's Korea Electric Power Corp. (KEPCO) which will be the prime contractor for the project.

Granting such privileges and immunities to engineers and technicians assigned to the reactor project runs counter to international practices, argued the North Korean delegation headed by Choe Myong-gwan, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's Consular Affairs Department.

Instead, technical personnel will be assured of their personal safety for the duration of their stay in North Korea, it was quoted as saying.

But in light of strained relations between South and North Korea, KEPCO's technical staff in the North for the reactor project should be accorded diplomatic privileges and immunities, the KEDO delegation headed by legal advisor Lucy Reed, said.

If technical personnel are not granted such privileges and immunities, even a small problem during the reactor project could develop into a political or social problem that hinders the entire project, it added.

If the stumbling block is eliminated, the two sides will continue their meeting in New York for another two weeks, to discuss other issues on the basis of the draft protocols they have already exchanged.

The meeting opened just a few days after the communist country drew world-wide attention by deploying armed troops to the truce village of Panmunjom in Korea, a flagrant violation of the 1953 Armistice Agreement which ended the Korean war.

ROK: DPRK Demands 'Additional \$2 Billion' for Reactors

SK1504063796 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
15 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by An Hui-chang]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 13 April that North Korea has demanded that the United States provide an additional \$2 billion on the pretext of expenses related to the construction of light-water reactors.

A diplomatic source in Seoul said: "North Korea demanded this of the U.S. State Department late March through a diplomatic channel, and the United States informed the ROK Government of it." North Korea's demand for \$2 billion is in addition to the expenses (estimated to be \$4.5 billion) expected to be required for the provision of light-water reactors according to the agreement concluded between the Korean Energy Development Organization and North Korea in December last year. The source revealed that North Korea put forward various expenses required for relocating and settling the residents in Sinpo area, where the light-water reactor power plant is to be built, as the pretext of its additional demand.

The source also pointed out that two U.S. State Department officials, including Bob Carlin, deputy section chief in the Intelligence and Research Bureau, will visit North Korea on 20 April. The source said that "The primary purpose of their visit is to fine-tune beforehand a series of DPRK-U.S. negotiations, including missile talks and negotiations for repatriation of the remains of U.S. soldiers. However, the possibility of discussion of additional light-water reactor expenses cannot be ruled out."

ROK: DPRK Strengthening Intelligence Surveillance at Panmunjom

SK1304050196 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network
in Korean 0400 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] It was revealed that the North Korean army strengthened its intelligence surveillance activities toward the ROK at the Joint Security Area of Panmunjom.

Military authorities explained that from 2000 [1100 GMT] on 12 April, the North Korean army started to operate three video cameras set up at Panmungak, and that it has been continuing to observe the movements of the ROK since.

Military officials concerned said it seems the reason the North Korean army began to operate video cameras is

to film the estimated course in which the special ROK task force will be deployed.

In the past, the North Korean army had set up seven video cameras at Panmungak and guard posts, but had not operated them.

The Defense Ministry revealed that other than Panmunjom, there is no peculiar movements by the North Korean army in the other regions of the DMZ.

ROK: Nuclear Waste Storage Facilities Rapidly Filling Up

SK1404052496 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
14 Apr 96 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The nation's facilities for storing nuclear waste are quickly reaching saturation point but the government is not any closer to selecting a site for the construction of a permanent storage plant.

According to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy [MOTIE] yesterday, an average of 225 tons of spent fuel has been generated by Korean nuclear power plants each year for the past few years and this figure is constantly increasing.

There are currently 11 nuclear power plants across the country and they combined to generate 242 tons of spent fuel last year, bringing the total accumulated nuclear waste to 2,623 tons.

The nation's first nuclear plant went into commercial operation in Kori in 1978. The 11 now in operation include four in Kori, another four in Yonggwang and two in Ulchin. The latest two in Yonggwang began operation early this year.

Owing to the fact that the nation does not have a permanent repository, temporary storage facilities have been built into each of the nuclear plants but they are rapidly being filled.

The Wonsong Nuclear Unit 1, for instance, can store 1,440 tons of spent fuel but it is expected to be full by the end of next year, ministry officials explained.

In fact, the capacity at virtually all nuclear plants is likely to be depleted by the turn of the century. Expansion plans are underway but they can only cope with demand for another 2-3 years, they added.

The main problem with spent fuel is that residents are ardently against the construction of related facilities in their areas due to fear of radioactive contamination.

The government selected the western island of Kurop-to as the ideal site for the new plant at the end of 1994 but

tests have shown that there are major geological faults on the island, thus returning the program to square one.

Owing to the difficulty of the situation, the government recently decided to transfer the responsibility for selecting the appropriate site to MOTIE, taking it out of the hands of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

MOTIE is currently working closely with Korea Electric Power Corporation, the nation's only supplier of electricity and the operator of the nuclear plants to designate a site as soon as possible.

ROK: Air Force Fighters To Participate in Exercise 15 Apr

SK1404052796 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 14 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff [JCS] announced that it will conduct civil defense training on 15 April. The JCS said that during this exercise, ROK Air Force fighter-planes will be mobilized, simulating as enemy aircraft, in major cities across the country, including Seoul and the capital sphere.

According to the JCS on 13 April, during the civil defense training to be conducted for 20 minutes from 1400 [0500 GMT] on 15 April, a total of 13 fighter planes, including F-16s and F-4s, will be mobilized in 38 major cities throughout the country, including Seoul, Pusan, Kwangju, Taegu and Incheon, and these fighters will make simulated raids.

In particular, four fighters will be mobilized as simulated enemy aircraft in the skies above Seoul for the first time in the civil defense training since the no flight-zone was designated in the capital area in 1964.

ROK: DPRK Envoy on Maintaining DMZ After Tentative Agreement

SK1504083896 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0700 GMT 15 Apr 96

[YONHAP report from Bangkok]

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korea revealed that the issue of maintaining the DMZ would be settled in compliance with reality if the Armistice Agreement were replaced by a tentative agreement, which is an interim to a peace agreement.

Yi Sam-no, North Korean ambassador to Thailand, made this statement, adding that the North Korean declaration about abandoning its obligations regarding maintaining the Military Demarcation Line and the DMZ as stipulated in the Armistice Agreement was a self-defense measure inevitably taken because the

southern area of the DMZ had been turned into an armed zone for an attack on North Korea.

ROK: Jinro Group Vice Chairman Returns From DPRK

SK1404034296 (Internet) The Chungang Ilbo WWW in English 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jinro Group's Vice-Chairman Pak Yong-su and his entourage returned to Seoul on the afternoon of the 13th via Beijing after a visit to North Korea.

General Manger Yi Chung-won who accompanied Pak on his visit to Pyongyang said, "We did not see any special signs that things were out of the ordinary in Pyongyang that might possibly be related to the recent incidents in the truce village of Panmunjom. Pyongyang appeared to be peaceful and busy with festival preparations for the late Kim Il-sung's birthday commemoration."

Vice-Chairman Pak and his entourage began their visit to the North on the 6th in order to discuss the establishment of a processing complex for agricultural products.

ROK: Inter-Korean Economic Relations Unaffected by DMZ Crisis

SK1304052796 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 13 Apr 96 p 8

[Report by staff reporter Choe Yong-sik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The DMZ crisis may have swayed the political landscape during the just-ended general elections in the South, but it did little affect economic relations between two Koreas.

North Korean Army troops trespassed into the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and practiced military drills for three consecutive days last week in violation of the 1953 Armistice Agreement, a key apparatus guaranteeing the peace on the Korean peninsula.

However, economic cooperation is well under way on its original schedule despite the mounting tension on both sides of the DMZ.

Low-wage competition is becoming ever more of a force, and Korean companies are looking to the North to relocate their production sites with the proximity advantage over other foreign countries.

Although it is not exactly an "exodus" to the North, a number of large Korean companies have been operating in the northern half of the Korean Peninsula.

Daewoo Corp. is processing light industry products such as garments, handbags and toys on commission

in the Nampo Industrial Complex near Pyongyang, and exports them to European and South American countries.

In order to regulate the quality and management process, the company has dispatched more than 20 technical advisers on several occasions since July, 1995, and seven are still there, according to Daewoo Corp.

"The recent military crisis, however, has nothing to do with the safety of Daewoo employees in Nampo, and business activities are sound," a Daewoo Corp. official said.

Along with the general trading of natural resources, LG International Corp. is also involved in processing apparel production on commission and brings in goods to sell under LG Fashion Co.'s labels. Last year's production in the North reached more than 9 million dollars, an LG official said.

"North Korean workers are skilled enough to maintain the quality level, and some of our products, for example, 'Tipicosi,' a trendy clothes label, are on the market with 'Made in DPRK' tags," said the LG official.

DPRK is the official name of North Korea, an abbreviation for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Company officials agree that all these business projects are intact despite North Korea's hostile moves and rhetoric against the South. They attributed this to the fact that the general trend in favor of economic cooperation has to be strengthened when North Korea is destitute and on the brink of national bankruptcy.

In contrast to militant posture, the North has not taken any step to give disadvantages to South Korean business activities while Korean firms have not taken recent North Korean provocations as "seriously" as in the past, a corporate strategist analyzed.

Economic cooperation between the two Koreas basically breaks down to three forms: general trade, direct or indirect, processing on commission and direct investment.

Rather than direct investment, economic cooperation with the North usually centers on manufacturing on commission, while South Korean firms provide North Korean companies with materials and capital.

Any company or individual that wants to do business with North Korea has to obtain government permission before they negotiate with North Korean counterparts under the DPRK Law on Equity.

Those permitted companies include Hanil Synthetic Fiber with 9.8 million dollars in projected investments for garment and fabric manufacturing, Kohap Ltd. with a 6.86 million dollar project also in garment and fabric

production, and Keaje Corp. with a 3.5 million dollar footwear factory, according to data from the Ministry of National Unification.

The Republic of Korea imported from the North 222.8 million dollars, and exported 64.4 million dollars last year excluding the rice aid to the North. The trade volume grew from 18 million dollars in 1989 to 287 million dollars last year on a customs clearance basis.

The Seoul government considers trade between the two Koreas "local" movement of goods and services and calls it "bringing in" and "taking out," as opposed to importing and exporting.

ROK: DPRK Trying To Exclude ROK From Tumen River Telecom Project

SK1204144896 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC WEEKLY in English 15 Apr 96 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Establishment of telecommunications infrastructure in connection with the Tumen River Area Development Program (TRADP) is facing difficulties as North Korea is moving to exclude South Korea from the project.

Kim Kwang-lim, director general of the International Economic Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Finance and Economy, recently came back from a working-level telecommunications meeting of TRADP held in Najin and Sonbong. He said, "North Korea argued that a separate meeting should be held, in which North Korea, Russia and China will participate in order to discuss establishment of telecommunications networks." Naturally, South Korea and Mongolia will be excluded.

Kim added, "The Seoul government will raise strong opposition against Pyongyang's move at the meeting of the five countries to be held in Beijing on May 18."

Meanwhile, commenting on foreign investment in Najin and Sonbong, Kim said, "As I understand, there are some projects under negotiations between North Korea and foreign companies. However, official contracts are not signed yet."

ROK: DPRK Increasing Military Spending Despite Sluggish Economy

SK1204144796 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC WEEKLY in English 15 Apr 96 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite economic slowdown, North Korea is expanding military expenditures. Despite curtailed economic scale, North Korea keeps expanding their budget scale, thus creating an extraordinary situation where money is in excess but no goods to buy.

This was revealed at an analysis on the North Korean economy conducted by the Ministry of National Unification, based on the recently published 1995 Yearbook of North Korea.

According to the yearbook, North Korea recorded a surplus of \$73.51 million in 1994, with revenues of \$19.35 billion and expenditures of \$19.28 billion.

Especially, North Korea spent \$2.2 billion for military expenditures which account for 11.4 percent of the national budget. The figures are up by \$50 million from 1993.

The surplus in 1994 decreased by more than half from \$152.67 million in 1993.

"The sharp decrease is largely due to depressed production. It reflects that their economic situation is becoming worse," said an official of the ministry.

"Military expenditures of \$2.2 billion are not enough to sustain their regular army of more than one million members," he said.

He estimated that North Korea's real military expenditures would amount to \$5.78 billion in 1994, up 2.9 percent over the previous year. The figures were up 24 percent from \$4.62 billion in 1988 and accounted for 30 percent of the national budget.

The Yearbook said North Korea virtually spent 98.1 percent of the original military budget, which was earmarked for 1994. This is largely due to economic difficulties along with rising expenditures in social, economic and other areas, said the official of the ministry.

The ministry also pointed out that North Korea's black figures in finance will be impossible without manipulating the statistics artificially or issuing banknotes.

ROK: Dailies View UNSC Discussion of DPRK DMZ Incursion

SK1204123796

[FBIS Report] Seoul vernacular dailies on 11 April carry editorials commenting on the significance of the UN Security Council [UNSC] taking up as an urgent agenda item for discussion the North Korean "show of force" in the DMZ following North Korea's announcement of its decision to renounce its DMZ-related obligations.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial titled "The North Korean Gamble Presented to the UNSC." The editorial notes that one of four alternatives will be adopted by the UNSC following its discussion — namely, a resolution, a presidential statement, a presidential letter, or a press statement, and observes: "We do not know whether

the UNSC will adopt a resolution, which has binding force, or a press statement, which has no binding force. However, regardless of which is adopted, it will produce an effect of restraining North Korea's provocative act." The editorial notes that if North Korea does not comply with the urging of the UNSC and continues to violate the Korean Armistice Agreement, it will not be able to avoid various sanctions imposed on North Korea by the international community. The editorial urges North Korea to ponder the significance of the UNSC's adoption of the issue as an agenda item for discussion, and notes that Russia and China are urging North Korea to abide by the Armistice Agreement, Japan is hinting at the possibility of an adverse effect of the North Korean act on the North Korean-Japanese talks on normalizing relations, and the United States is considering suspending missile talks. The editorial concludes: "North Korea should know that the reckless gamble cannot resolve the issue of the Korean Peninsula. We therefore urge North Korea once again to come to the table of dialogue as soon as possible."

The moderate HANGUK ILBO carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial titled "The Discussion of the North Korean Provocation at the UNSC." The editorial notes: "The fact that the UNSC adopted the issue as an urgent agenda item means that the UNSC views the North Korean act as illegal and as hampering security and peace on the Korean Peninsula." Noting that the UNSC has assumed a vital role in maintaining peace on the Korean Peninsula since the Korean war, the editorial observes: "Therefore, it is quite proper that the Security Council of the United Nations, which dispatched UN Forces to the ROK and is a signatory of the Korean Armistice Agreement, should discuss the provocative act of North Korea, which unilaterally declared nullification of the agreement and is attempting to disrupt peace." The editorial notes that the UNSC discussion will lead to its adoption of a resolution, letter, or statement that will become a basis for the international community branding North Korea an international outlaw and an aggressor and for international pressure on North Korea.

ROK Catholics Plan To Build Hospital in DPRK

SK1404052696 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean
14 Apr 96 p 26

[Report by Kim Chon-ho]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ROK Catholic Church is pushing for the construction of a hospital in North Korea.

On 13 April, Cardinal Kim Su-hwan, ordinary of the Archdiocese of Seoul, said that "the church is

planning to build a large-size, several million dollar-worth hospital in Najin-Sonbong District in North Korea." He added that "for this, a fund-raising campaign will be launched soon among the believers." The construction of the hospital can be interpreted as full-scale exchange between the ROK Catholic Church and North Korea. Thus, Cardinal Kim's visit to North Korea to discuss the matter is expected to be pushed for in the future.

In November last year, the ROK Catholic Church sent Reverend Kim Sang-chin of Oegwan Monastery under Taegu Parish to North Korea to discuss the issue with the North Korean authorities. It was also learned that the ROK Catholic Church has been discussing the matter with North Korean authorities through the German Catholic Church.

Concerning this, the Ministry of National Unification [MNU] revealed that "since details of the plan for the project and concrete construction schedule have not been finalized between the two sides, the MNU is not in the position to comment on whether the project will be approved or not."

North Korea declared Najin-Sonbong District as a free trade-zone in December 1991, and the amount of foreign investments in the zone up to now is estimated to be less than \$20 million.

ROK: Russia, DPRK Said To Disagree on How To Ensure Korean Peace

SK1504014196 (Internet) *The Chungang Ilbo WWW in English* 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia and North Korea held an in-depth discussion on the ways to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula at the 1st Russia-North Korea Economic and Scientific Technology Joint Committee and Political Consultation Council recently held in Pyongyang. The two nations, however, failed to reach an agreement.

Russia's vice premier and foreign vice-minister who led the Russian delegation for a visit to Pyongyang returned to Moscow on the morning of the 13th (local time), made these comments at a press conference held with South Korean reporters.

ROK: Six More South Koreans Evacuated From Liberia

SK1504073696 *Seoul YONHAP in English* 0438 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP) — Six more South Korean residents in war-torn Liberia were evacuated Monday to the neighboring African state

of Senegal with the help of U.S. military helicopters in Monrovia, the Liberian capital, Foreign Ministry spokesman So Tae-won said.

Fifteen out of 21 Koreans in the West African state have been evacuated as of Monday, with the remaining six, all male, having expressed their desire to stay in Liberia to manage their assets there, the spokesman said.

ROK: Chinese Beating ROK in Japan Machine Import Market

SK1404041596 *Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English* 14 Apr 96 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Korea has been outpaced by China, Taiwan and Malaysia in the exports of machine parts and materials to Japanese companies.

According to the Tokyo branch of the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) yesterday, 21 percent of the top Japanese companies like Toyota and Hitachi would choose China, 20 percent Taiwan and 11 percent Malaysia as the country to procure parts and materials from.

Only 10 percent would choose Korea as a desirable supplier while 9 and 8 percent would go for Singapore and Indonesia, the KOTRA office said quoting a survey conducted by Business and Technology.

Eighty percent of the procurement were parts for computers, automobiles and electronic appliances, according to the survey conducted on 140 major Japan's manufacturing companies.

Fifty-four percent would be purchased directly from manufacturers while 22 percent would be acquired through the original equipment manufacturing (OEM) method.

Meanwhile, 92 firms or 88 percent of the companies replied they intended expanding overseas procurements, brightening prospects for more participation in the Japanese market.

ROK: Dailies View Results of General Elections
SK1304071296

[FBIS Report] The following is a compilation of editorials carried in the Seoul vernacular newspapers on 13 April on the results of the 15th general elections held in the ROK on 11 April.

The conservative CHOSON ILBO publishes on page 3 a 1,100-word editorial entitled "11 April Election and President Kim Yong-sam." Noting that the ruling New Korea Party [NKP] "made a good fight, which can be defined as a victory," the editorial observes that the

votes the NKP won in the election reflect the people's support not only for "Kim Yong-sam's politics," but also for "the characteristic capabilities of each individual candidate of the NKP." However, the editorial warns that President Kim's assistants should not encourage the president's political trend to be "hardline," assuming the result of the elections as "Kim Yong-sam's victory" and as an "overall insurance for Kim Yong-sam-style politics." The editorial predicts that since the tenure of the 15th National Assemblymen will remain in effect even after the era of the Kim Yong-sam regime, the NKP assemblymen "will not unconditionally follow Kim Yong-sam politics," but "will more independently carry out their own activities" than the former ruling party assemblymen. The editorial hopes President Kim Yong-sam will remain faithful to his duties as "a more harmonious coordinator, consultation-oriented manager, and statesman who listens to popular opinion."

CHOSON ILBO also carries on the same page a 1,100-word editorial under the headline "11 April Election and Kim Tae-chung." Noting that the 11 April election means "frustration in Kim Tae-chung's calculations," the editorial writes that all his election plans were based on his ambition to "challenge the presidency" in 1998, but "the voters in the capital mercilessly demonstrated that Kim Tae-chung's calculations were erroneous." Although party leader Kim Tae-chung advocated "the moderate rightist line" and an "economy-first principle" during the election campaign, conservative voters in the capital, not responding to Kim's advocacy, choose NKP candidates based on "their personal character and capabilities." The editorial points out that Kim Tae-chung is now on the crossroads of attempting to develop "another survival theory" or "a willingness to humbly accept his limitations," stressing that "the former is more likely in view of his personal character." Emphasizing that the more Kim adheres to the former then the narrower the extent his activities will become, the editorial urges Kim not to rely on "unreasonable political operations" any longer precisely by looking into what can work with the people and what cannot. The editorial then calls on him "to ponder which is more important — the fostering of a sound next-generation opposition party, or his attempts to become president."

The moderate TONG-A ILBO carries on page 3 a 1,200-word editorial entitled "Now Is the Time for Great Politics." The editorial states that although the ruling party put up a good fight, it failed to secure a majority of assembly seats, and that the National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) also failed to win the votes as initially expected, while the United Liberal Democrats (ULD) made "a certain advance." Thus, the editorial notes: "The voters have not bestowed victory on any

party." However, paying attention to "the victory won by the NKP over the opposition parties in Seoul," the editorial says "the ruling party will be sufficiently able to lead political circles with the 139 seats it won," and summarizes the people's "message" contained in the results of the election into two main points — "the pursuance of stability and a demand for change." The editorial points out that the forthcoming 15th National Assembly will have great tasks to fulfill—including North-South issues, the promotion of national competitive power, and the upgrading of the quality of the people's living—and hopes that newly-elected assemblymen will become "reasonable, forward-looking political forces who will contribute to the nation's political development."

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO publishes on page 3 a 1,000-word editorial under the headline "Three-Kim Structure Has Reached Its Limit." Describing the victory of the ruling party in Seoul as an "exceptional change," the editorial writes that the change means "the rejection by Seoulites of the existing political climate" and shows an "indication of the downfall of regionalism" in the capital, which reflects the three-Kim political structure. The editorial expresses the hope that this phenomenon will expand to the entire nation, emphasizing that in the past Seoul always led the nation's overall politics.

The moderate HANGUK ILBO carries on page 3 a 1,200-word editorial entitled "Tasks Assigned by the General Elections." The editorial writes that the dropping out of more than 10 leading politicians and the emergence of many new politicians, which comprise 49.8 percent of all assembly seats won in the current election, reflects the popular will for a generational shift through the breaking of the existing political structure, and the will for bold improvements in politics with high productivity. Noting that North Korea's military provocations worked to benefit the ruling party in the elections, the editorial says the election results showed that the people supported President Kim's push for reform amid stability by affirmatively recognizing his achievements in reform work and the movement to set history straight. Describing the winning of 79 seats by the NCNP as an "unsatisfactory result" and the Democratic Party's election results as "a miserable defeat," the editorial predicts NCNP President Kim Tae-chung will face "a serious trial" in challenging the presidency now that his leadership has been weakened within the party, and that "the reorganization of political circles will be carried out in a natural manner to build stable forces" in the future.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN carries on page 3 a 1,100-word editorial entitled "One Should Correctly Read the Popular Will Reflected in the 11

April Elections." The editorial notes that although no party won "a complete victory" in the election, the ruling party will be able to continue leading the political circles by "accepting the independents" and through other methods. Emphasizing that the people do not want to see "confusion" and a "political fight" resulting from "a small ruling party with a large opposition party," the editorial points out that the popular will reflected in the election results "has more sternly judged" the DP and the NCNP, which inherited the tradition of opposition party, than it did the ruling party, thus dealing "disgrace" to NCNP President Kim Tae-chung. Defining the en masse emergence of new politicians as a noteworthy characteristic in the current election, the editorial points out that this is an indication of a "natural generational shift" in the political stage to correspond to the new political trend.

The pro-government daily SEOUL SINMUN carries on page 1 a 2,000-word editorial under the headline "Let Us Advance Toward New Politics — The Popular Will Refused Outdated Politics in the Elections." Noting the current general election displayed "our people's mature and sound will," the editorial notes that although no party was successful in winning a majority, the initiative of politics was given to the ruling party because the people did not want to assign the work of reorganizing the political sphere to the opposition. The editorial describes the ruling party's victory in the capital as the explicit expression of "political development," and emphasizes that the popular will has ensured "President Kim's stabilized management of state affairs." The editorial urges the NKP to push for constant reform with "firm confidence and a sense of responsibility" while strengthening the foundation of stability.

The editorial calls on NCNP President Kim Tae-chung "to ponder his future course of action" and "to wisely decide on his future activities" by keenly sensing his responsibility for the failure. The editorial also urges the DP and independents to "seek collaboration and coalition with reform-oriented forces" because they can hardly maintain their independence in the future.

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN carries on page 2 a 2,000-word editorial entitled "One Should Precisely Read the 'true Intention of Judgment.'" The editorial points out that "the NKP victory in the capital" and "the emergence of new politicians" are two major characteristics observed from the result of the general elections, and that this reflects the people's support for President Kim Yong-sam's effort to set history straight and liquidate past irregularities. However, the editorial adds, the NKP's failure to win a majority can be interpreted as the people's "warning" against President Kim's "self-righteous political leadership" and the "sus-

picious of his close aids as regards corruption." Criticizing the NCNP's claim that "the greater cause of its failure in the current elections was external factors," the editorial urges the party to pay closer attention to "its own internal elements" resulting in its election failure. Deploping the existence of regionalism as seen in the election's outcome, the editorial hails the emergence of new young politicians in the 15th National Assembly.

ROK: Daily Comments on Outcome of General Elections

SK1204154396 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
12 Apr 96 p 6

[Editorial: "Politics Should Now Undergo Changes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Unlike the public predictions, which foretold the ruling party's defeat, the New Korea Party [NKP] fought a good fight in the general elections despite the Chang Hak-no scandal, although it failed to secure a majority in the National Assembly. In another words, the outcome of the April 11 general elections reflected the people's desire for stability.

We believe that the results of the general elections represented the people's mature and wise judgment because they eased concerns over political unrest and time-consuming political strife that would inevitably result from the absence of the leading force in creating a stable political situation. Everyone clearly remembers the deadlocked political situation after the 13th general elections in which the ruling party was a minority and the opposition camp was a minority. Moreover, the presidential election will be held next year, and if a serious situation is created where the ruling party is a minority and the opposition camp is the majority and where the regional parties compete for the country's presidency, there will no doubt be serious side effects and adverse results from this. To this end, the recent outcome of the general elections showed that the people do not want such an extreme situation.

Good Showing by Government and Ruling Camp Unstable

However, the election result cannot be seen as an NKP victory nor the demonstration of the people's trust in the ruling camp. On the contrary, North Korea's recent provocations prodded the people's desire for stability and their concern over security, increasing voter support for the NKP. It would probably be right to conclude that the NKP's strong showing in North Kyongsang Province stems from the people's lack of choices, rather than their support for the ruling party.

To this end, the government and the ruling party ought to feel greater responsibility for and be burdened by the

election result. From now on, they should carry out state affairs with new concepts and methods. The government and the ruling camp have probably figured out where their problems lie and what the people dislike about the course of the election campaigning. It is obvious that ruling party candidates throughout the nation criticized the government and promised during their campaigning that it will stand in the forefront in continuing reform.

A Mechanism for Dialogue and Compromise Should Be Established

In this regard, the government and the NKP are in circumstances in which they cannot be relieved by the outcome of the general elections. The NKP may need to lure as many independent legislators as possible right now. However, even if it secures a stable majority through alliances with independent legislators, the ruling camp cannot and should not run alone as it has done in the past.

Whether the ruling camp likes it or not, it must revitalize the National Assembly and improve relations between the parties. So far, relations between the ruling and opposition parties have suffered a setback and the National Assembly has been crippled due to the president's individual reform. However, from now on the ruling camp should be at the forefront of the politics of dialogue and compromise.

The opposition parties should also undergo changes. If they think about why the outcome of the election fell short of their expectations, they could learn a few lessons themselves. Their same old tactics of attacking the ruling camp are devoid of alternatives and new vision, and their political tricks of arousing regional rivalry have apparently disappointed voters. Only a dark future lies ahead of the opposition parties if they fail to overcome such outmoded notions and conducts. The opposition parties should also pursue negotiation and cooperation, rather than division and confrontation; should sharpen their competitive edges over policies rather than seek political strife; and should carry out human and structural reforms that accord with the changing times.

The Need To Change the Opposition Party's Notions and Conduct

We urge each political force to correctly read the people's sentiment reflected in the 11 April general elections and humbly accept its result, and expect them to promptly carry out self-change as demanded by the new climate. In addition, the parties concerned should be wholly responsible for having created and heavily relied on regional sentiment. If they continue to seek power based on this regional background, not only will

there be little chance of success, but they should also think of the harm such politics will bring about.

It is significant that the ruling party made a strong showing in the Seoul Metropolitan area, where the National Congress for New Politics [NCNP] had traditionally prevailed. Of course, one should draw the conclusion that the fact that the ruling party profited from North Korea's provocations could also be seen as a sign hinting at the people's rejection in the Seoul Metropolitan area of the outmoded political structure based on the three Kims. The NCNP leadership's wise judgment following its poor showing grabs our attention.

Now we should concentrate on turning the results of the 11 April general elections into a new beginning for better politics.

ROK: Kim Chong-pil Urged To Promote 'Healthy' Conservatism

SK1304021296 (Internet) The Digital Choson Ilbo
WWW in English 1212 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Editorial: "Chairman Kim Chong-pil After Election"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chairman Kim Chong-pil and his United Liberal Democrats [ULD] have exceeded expectations, gaining 50 seats in the new Assembly and enabling him, as planned, to wield casting votes. The reason given for such a big gain is presumed to be that he effectively utilized his power base in the Chungchong Province area and its anti-President Kim sentiment in the Taegu City area. This may also be attributable to the ULD's conservative-stability logic which is traditional to the middle class conservative voters. This can be proven as the ULD succeeded in gaining seats in other areas, such as Kyonggi, Kangwon and Kyongbuk provinces.

Still, the ULD might have accomplished much more if not for two mistakes. The first being the failure in not attracting appropriate conservative figures into an alliance and secondly, being involved in the candidates contribution scandals and ensuing discord in front of the enemies.

Rather than enjoying this success, Chairman Kim should work toward promoting a healthy conservative movement in this country. Also, these votes were not in support of Kim himself so, as a result, he should not attempt to take recognition for this success but instead act as a cornerstone for a healthy conservative party in this country.

ROK: Editorial Urges NKP Members To Remain 'Quite Independent'

SK1304035196 (Internet) The Digital Choson Ilbo
WWW in English 1210 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Editorial: "President Kim Yong-sam After Election"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ruling New Korea Party [NKP] did well in the general election and it might even be said the party was the victor. Though the party lost its majority in the Assembly victory is their's as the pre-election situation was not good.

But, the important thing is what happens now. According to research done by SBS, 71% of the voters cast their votes with the candidates character in mind. Some votes were cast as an affirmation of President Kim's administration while others were for the candidates themselves.

Many are not opposed to Kim's reformation itself but are critical of his style. They feel his approach authoritative and self-righteous. We must watch Kim's people closely so that they don't see this as a real victory for Kim Yong-sam and adopt a more hard-line approach.

With one year and 10 months remaining in his presidency and one year and 8 months left until the presidential election, the general election has saved President Kim from early-on becoming a lame-duck. However, this should not be interpreted as a full-scale affirmation of his style.

The term of the newly-elected NKP members will last beyond Kim's administration and it can be presumed they will not be unconditionally subordinate but quite independent in carrying out their duties. From here on we hope President Kim as the person responsible for empowering those around him becomes a more harmonious mediator, and better discussion manager and listener.

ROK: Effect of Election Results on Kim Tae-chung

SK1304035296 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 13 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] When the first erroneous exit polls depicted his party as a devastatingly distant runner-up in Thursday's general elections, the face of main opposition party leader Kim Tae-chung turned red with shock.

The final results were far better than the early predictions, but they failed to calm him down.

His party, the National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), won 79 seats of the total 299, a far cry from the one third he had hoped for.

The NCNP carried the Honam area, the party's political stronghold. But it performed badly in Seoul and its surrounding Kyonggi Province, in which party leader Kim staked his political future. Kim, a strong presidential hopeful for next year's presidential election, said that his candidacy could depend on the outcome of Thursday's legislative elections.

Attention is now being focused on his political moves.

Kim, who promised to assume responsibility for the election results, has yet to make a comment on his party's defeat.

Kim even failed to obtain a seat for himself. He was placed on the 14th spot of his party's proportional representation list, but the NCNP didn't obtain enough votes to deliver him his seat. Only 13 proportional representatives were elected from the NCNP.

Political analysts say that voters turned their back on Kim Tae-chung, who broke his earlier promise to stay in retirement and returned to politics last June.

After losing his third presidential bid to President Kim Yong-sam in the 1992 presidential election, Kim vowed that he would leave politics for good. But he resumed his political activities and launched the NCNP in June last year.

He had since concentrated on making the NCNP the largest party, if not a majority party, to use it as a springboard for his fourth attempt at the presidency next year.

But now he may seek a coalition with the conservative opposition United Liberal Democrats led by Kim Chong-pil to overcome political difficulties, the analysts say.

Kim Chong-pil has sought to change the Constitution from the current presidential system of government to a parliamentary one, saying he will join hands with any party that responds favorably to his proposal.

The NCNP leader has denied he is seeking a coalition with Kim Chong-pil despite speculations that he would do so to stand against President Kim Yong-sam and his governing New Korea Party.

But for now, he may try to lure sympathetic independents to his party in a bid to strengthen his power before he makes a final decision on whether he will run for next year's presidential race.

ROK: Election Shows Desire for 'Generational Change'*SK1304035796 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 Apr 96 p 3*

["Voters Hope Regionalism Will Be Dismantled: 'Clean' Politics Remains Top Priority of Nation's Electorate"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Many voters shared the view that the outcome of Thursday's [11 April] parliamentary elections indicates the public desire for a generational change of politicians as soon as possible.

At the general elections, many political heavyweights were defeated by political new comers boasting a "clean image," reflecting voters' deep-rooted distrust to the existing political circle branded as corruption.

Voters also expressed their view that long-held regional factionalism, one of major phenomena which featured in this elections as in past polls, should be dismantled as soon as possible. The latest elections revealed regionalism that the nation's three major parties made a near landslide showing in their bosses' respective strongholds.

President Kim Yong-sam's NKP [New Korea Party] has Pusan and South Kyongsang Province as its political stronghold, while Kim Tae-chung's NCNP [National Congress for New Politics] and Kim Chong-pil's ULD [United Liberal Democrats] have Cholla and Chungchong provinces as their political strongholds, respectively.

Yi Sok-yeon, a lawyer, said, "The ruling New Korea Party gained an unexpected victory in Seoul, Incheon, and its surrounding Kyonggi Province by nominating many figures with a clean image as its candidates. On the other hand, the political heavyweights of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) suffered defeat in such regions, while newcomers succeeded in garnering parliamentary seats."

In particular, Seoul had been regarded as the stronghold of the opposition camp.

"The overall setback of the NCNP, relative good performances of both the opposition United Liberal Democrats (ULD) and independents came to me as an unexpected one," Yi continued. "Many voters in Seoul whose birth places are Cholla provinces seemed to be reluctant to provide 'blind' support to candidates of the NCNP, headed by Kim Tae-chung."

Pak Pyong-ok, a high-ranking official of the Citizens Coalition for Economic Justice, said, "Unlike the earlier prediction that the opposition camp will take a landslide victory, the strong showing of the ruling NKP reflected

the positive evaluation by voters toward the Kim Yong-sam government's anti-corruption drive."

Yi Ho-chae, a professor at Korea University, said, "Both ruling and opposition parties seemed to feel a need for the generational change of politicians after the elections. The people are expecting new political leaders to lead the politics."

Yi Sang-mu, a self-employed businessman in Seoul, said, "It is a pity that the long-held regionalism prevailed much deeper through the elections. For the development of the nation's politics, old political practices based on regionalism should be rooted out."

Pak Man-su, an employee of the Samsung Business Group, said, "The recent tension created on the Korean Peninsula seemed to have caused voters, in particular voters in Seoul and its surrounding area, to lean to the ruling NKP calling for stability."

Hwang Kyu-hyok, a college student of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, said, "The voters appeared to choose stability rather than change in the wake of North Korea's recent military threat to South Korea."

He said the ruling NKP should continue to push for an anti-corruption campaign to meet the people's demand for clean politics.

Kim Sun-pok, a housewife in Seoul, said, "The distrust of voters toward the existing political circle seemed to have deepened. To meet the public demand for clean politics, the ruling party should continue to carry out reform while opposition parties should humbly accept the returns of this elections and take it as a chance to be reborn."

ROK: Daily on How Elections Will Effect Future of Party Leaders*SK1304041396 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 13 Apr 96 p 2*

[Report by staff reporter Han Tong-su]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The outcome of the April 11 National Assembly elections was no doubt a political victory for President Kim Yong-sam, who has been haunted by the specter of a premature lame duck.

Kim's ruling New Korea Party [NKP] clinched a comfortable 139 seats though it slightly stops short of the halfway mark of the 299 unicameral legislature.

In sharp contrast, Kim Tae-chung's National Congress for New Politics [NCNP] ended up winning 79, a disappointing outcome for the opposition party whose original aim was to win one-third of the Assembly seats.

The poor results will apparently force Kim to think twice about his fourth bid for the presidency in next year's presidential election.

Kim Chong-pil, the third protagonist in the three-Kim politics in Korea exposed his limit in a regionalism-swayed political equation, even though his conservative United Liberal Democrats [ULD] managed to garner 50 seats backed by loyalists of jailed former presidents No Tae-u and Chon Tu-hwan.

Few political observers, seeing the results of the just-ended polls, would give serious thought to his presidential chances.

Rather, they view President Kim has secured a mandate to manage state affairs in a more confident manner and lead politics according to his plan.

In a statement on the election outcome, Kim yesterday made it clear he will push ahead with his reform drive and work to "straighten out distorted history."

"I think the election outcome is a clear expression of the people's wish to put an end to anachronistic politics and realize transparent and clean politics," Kim said.

Lamenting the regionalism-based voting pattern again exposed in the last elections, Kim gave a special meaning to the ruling party's gaining a near majority in such an inhospitable condition.

Kim, in particular, warned that the end of the election does not mean a closing of investigations into election law violations — a strong indication that he will continue his anti-corruption campaign to realize clean politics.

According to political analysts, Kim's confidence apparently derives from his calculation that he can make the NKP a majority party easily through a small-scale political shakeup.

Without soliciting cooperation from the two other Kims, his political foes, the President can steer politics at his will, aided by independents and lawmakers of the reformist Democratic Party. In the April 11 polls, the DP [Democratic Party] won 15 seats and independents snatched 16, six of them from South Kyongsang Province, President Kim's undisputable political turf.

Analysts predicted that before the new 15th-term Assembly convenes June 5, Kim's NKP will mount efforts to recruit independents to form a majority, and the attempt is likely to succeed.

President Kim may consider merging with the DP, once vilified as the "second battalion" of the NKP by the NCNP and the ULD, they said.

But the effort is unlikely to bear fruit due to varied interests of individual DP lawmakers, the high amount of political funds subsidized by the state and its existing assets, an analyst opined.

Some political insiders, meanwhile, differed on the view that the Assembly will see smooth steering under the initiative of President Kim and his NKP.

President Kim will not be able to sway politics at his own will because the two other Kims still stand tall despite their setbacks in the last election, they said.

The two Kims still have power to negate any disagreeable political attempts by cooperating with each other, if need be, according to the pundits.

Problems may also arise from the ruling party itself, a mix of heterogeneous political groups harboring the possibility of breaking apart.

Yi Hoe-chang, the former prime minister who headed the party's campaign machine, has become the undisputable star due to his contribution to the election victory.

But he apparently faces challenges from party chairman Kim Yun-whan, leader of the party's conservative faction who led a successful campaign in North Kyongsang Province, the strong-hold of the jailed ex-presidents, and Pak Chan-chong, the NKP's chief campaign manager in charge of the Seoul region where NKP candidates fared impressively.

President Kim will have to exert much energy to put his house in order before directing political offensives at two other Kims, who would try to draw strength from divisions in the ruling party, the analysts opined.

They also said the 139 seats won by the NKP, 79 seats of the NCNP and 50 of the ULD is the "division of golden proportion" that may prohibit any party from forcing upon any other party.

It remains to be seen whether Korea's future political landscape will be painted according to President Kim's scheme.

But one thing is certain. Kim will push his drive to enforce a generational change in Korean politics with stronger will and more strength gained from the recent electoral victory.

ROK: Ruling, Opposition Political Parties Promote Major Changes

SK1304060496 Seoul YONHAP in English
0538 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP) — Now that the general elections are over, the four major

political parties, ruling and opposition, have set out to make major changes that will appeal to the public.

The ruling New Korea Party (NKP) is working on a set of reform measures, convinced that the results of the election represent a mandate for "uninterrupted reform" and "generational change in political circles."

The National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) and other opposition parties are promoting a party-wide realignment after their sluggish performance in the elections.

Political sources said Saturday that the ruling party plans to focus on supporting President Kim Yong-sam's policies and encouraging party unity.

They said the NKP will be very careful about any change in party leadership since it is bound to have something to do with choosing the party's next presidential candidate and, therefore, might lead to a premature race among nomination hopefuls.

It is for this very reason, one of the sources said, that the ruling party is weighing various possible effects of nominating Yi Hoe-chang, chairman of the NKP election campaign headquarters, to a key position in the party.

An alternative being considered by the party is recruiting Kim Myong-yun, President Kim's long-time confidant, as party chairman or keeping incumbent Kim Yun-hwan for the time being.

If Kim Yun-hwan were retained as chairman, Yi Hoe-chang could be named as a key party presidential advisor, a source said.

"Since President Kim has more than one and a half years in office, we should shelve any debate on the party's next presidential candidate until, say, June next year and instead concentrate on giving full backing to the president in his policy programs," the source said.

Before the new National Assembly is inaugurated next month, he said, the party will try to change key leadership positions in a way that better reflects the opinion of voters.

In this context, attention will fall on the roles of the president's right hand men So Sok-chae and Pak Kwan-yong, who were elected in the elections.

Those people elected in the Seoul area on the NKP ticket will also be given major duties within the party, he said.

The National Congress for New Politics plans to begin restructuring in an effort to reclaim its status as the major opposition party, starting with the rally of successful candidates slated for early next week.

Since several party leaders like Yi Chong-chan and Rep. Chong Tae-chol were defeated in the elections, and in order to respond to the public voices calling for a generational change in politics, the NCNP is reportedly considering revamping its leadership. But Party President Kim Tae-chung will not take a back seat, according to party sources.

The NCNP is also considering mounting an offensive against the government and the ruling party, accusing the government of election rigging.

The main opposition party has charged the administration with mobilizing electronic media to exaggerate the tensions in the Panmunjom truce village, and the prosecutors office and police with employing tactics aimed at discrediting the opposition.

Kim Tae-chung remained at his Ilsan residence north of Seoul since Friday afternoon analyzing the outcome of Thursday's general election, contemplating the probable reorganization of the party leadership and studying how to manage political affairs in the future.

"Chances are good that the party will change in response to the wishes of the voters reflected in the general election," an aide to Kim said. "But Kim Tae-chung will not make a dishonorable retreat to the sideline at this juncture in time."

The United Liberal Democrats (ULD) is expected to reshuffle its leadership next week.

The need for an immediate leadership shakeup was brought about by the defeat of Secretary-General Cho Pu-yong. It is expected that three- and four-term lawmakers will become part of the new leadership.

The ULD is expected to form a sort of shadow cabinet in the new leadership in view of its election pledge to amend the constitution for a shift from the present presidential system of government to a parliamentary cabinet system.

But it still needs to tackle the nomination scandal involving party leaders, because Yi Pil-son and Kim Tong-kil are expected to demand that the party delve into the scandal now that the elections are over.

The Democratic Party will hold a meeting of the campaign committee Monday [15 April] to seek a way of revitalizing the party, after failing to win a sufficient number of parliamentary seats to form a floor negotiation group in the new National Assembly.

The most pressing task is to recruit or form an alliance with independents so that a floor negotiation group can be formed.

ROK: Clandestine Radio Reports NKP Defeated in Elections

SK1304112196 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The New Korea Party [NKP] lost in the 15th parliamentary elections held on 11 April, which gave rise to a political situation in which the opposition parties have more parliamentary seats than the ruling party. Mrs. Yun Chong-won will comment on this:

[Begin Yun recording] As has already been reported, Kim Yong-sam's NKP lost in the parliamentary elections.

The NKP had said it should win a majority of seats in the parliamentary elections and pledged to win a victory. And, it even secretly sent a letter with guidelines to its regional chapters and used all the government power and money.

This illegal election campaign by the NKP is related to the fact that the parliamentary elections were filled with irregularities. However, the elections ended in the NKP's defeat.

The NKP's defeat in the elections had been predicted. The NKP's defeat is the inevitable result of the Kim Yong-sam regime's suppressive rule and misrule.

Even though the Kim Yong-sam group loudly raved about reform and change after taking power, no reform or change have taken place.

Let us see the task of eradicating irregularities, which the present regime has raved about. Irregularities have not been eradicated but become more rampant. This is well shown by the recent Chang Hak-no scandal and the fact that Kim Yong-sam himself has turned out to be the ringleader of irregularities.

The Kim Yong-sam regime's foreign policy broke down, as well. North-South dialogue, which had been held, has been suspended completely, and North-South relations have been strained to the utmost. And the Kim Yong-sam regime's international isolation has worsened.

The Kim Yong-sam regime brutally suppressed young people and students and people from all other walks of life who demand independence, democracy, and reunification and even unhesitatingly and bestially murdered a student who demanded the disclosure of the presidential campaign fund.

I can say that the Kim Yong-sam regime's vicious rule and misrule led to the NKP's defeat in the parliamentary

elections. In other words, all our people believe that if the Kim Yong-sam regime is left intact, independence, democracy, and reunification are not possible on this land, and this belief was reflected in the elections.

Our people defeated the NKP and, thus, doled out a stern judgment to the traitor Kim Yong-sam. However, our people should not be satisfied. As long as the traitor Kim Yong-sam stays in power, our people cannot hope for independence, democracy, and reunification or the right to exist.

Therefore, our people must continuously and resolutely wage the struggle to demand the resignation of the Kim Yong-sam regime and the disclosure of the presidential campaign fund for 1992. [end recording]

ROK: 32 Percent of Elected Assembly Members Under Investigation

SK1404034196 (Internet) The Digital Choson Ilbo WWW in English 1235 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Prosecutor's office announced Saturday that among the 299 newly elected of the National Assembly, 97, or 32.4 percent have been indicted or are under investigation for violations of election laws. 70 of the elected are indicted, and 27 are under investigation. The total number of people indicted for violations is 913. By party break-down: New Korea Party, 44; United Liberal Democrats, 11; National Congress for New Politics, 10; Democratic Party, 4; and independents, 1.

According to officials at the Prosecutor's Office, there is a six-month statute of limitations for election crimes. Thus, trials for those indicted will be expedited.

ROK: Elections Said Marked by 'Regionalism, Factionalism'

SK1404052596 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Apr 96 p 6

[Editorial: "New Political Culture"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Since the beginning of this year, many observers had predicted a "political earthquake" would be created by the general elections. The anticipated political convulsions did not take place, however. Instead, the political specters of regionalism, factionalism and one-man leadership again showed their ugly heads.

Setting their eyes on the presidential election next year, the nation's three political forces following Kim Yong-sam, Kim Tae-chung and Kim Chong-pil waged a fierce showdown, based on their respective strongholds. A regional political war was fought throughout the

campaign period and the outcome showed the three Kims maintain their almost feudal lordship in their respective regions, but, in fact, all emerged losers.

In the elections as in past polls, individual abilities and quality of candidates or policies did little to win votes. Rather connections through clans, schools and native places carried great weight. Those who had no such relationships with candidates remained unattached and undecided until the last minute. And many voters showed apathy to the election itself and antipathy to the political scene in general. The 63 percent voting rate was the lowest in a general election since the establishment of the Republic in 1948.

In Seoul and its vicinity, areas which are free from regional rivalry, the ruling party fared well, winning way over the half of seats offered. But opposition parties attributed their failure there to the suddenly increased national security concern caused by North Korea's military moves in the Demilitarized Zone.

During the election campaign, few candidates were seen to abide by the statutory limit on campaign spending. Under the present law, candidates cannot spend in excess of 90 million won, but reports have it that many candidates spent billions. As of April 12, a total of 913 people including 192 candidates, had been booked. Ninety-nine are under arrest, 49 of them charged with vote-buying.

In the past, election law violators rarely faced disqualification if they were elected. Of the 90 successful candidates in the local autonomy elections last year who were prosecuted for election law violations, only three had their elections nullified. Now, violators should be punished and disqualified through the strictest application of the election laws.

The present Law on Public Positions Elections and Prevention of Corruption proved to have many loopholes. It failed to prevent the expenditure of huge amounts of money in violation of its provisions, and it had little effect on other forms of illegal campaigning such as libelous "revelations" of rival candidates' private affairs and alleged wrongdoings.

The nation needs a new political order. Parties and their leaders should do away with the anachronistic politics swayed by personal charisma. The first thing the new legislature must do is take institutional measures to correct the nation's political culture. Much is now expected of the nearly 130 freshmen in the 15th Assembly, who include many politically inexperienced, hence untainted people.

ROK: NKP, Democrats Seeking Independents' Support

SK1404055996 (Internet) The Digital Choson Ilbo WWW in English 1238 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In this year's post-election arena, independent candidates have suddenly become the most eligible bachelors, so to speak, of the National Assembly. Falling short of majority representation within the Assembly, the New Korea Party is the most desperate suitor, with only 139 representatives of the 150 it needs. In second place is the Democrat Party, with 15 — 5 short of the 20 representatives it needs to be recognized as a separate group within the National Assembly.

Of the 16 independents elected, only one has decided to affiliate with an established party, with two or three more still undecided. All others have been silent so far.

ROK: ULD Lawmaker Arrested on Election Law Violation

SK1304112596 Seoul YONHAP in English 0856 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Puchon, April 13 (YONHAP) — The prosecution Saturday arrested Rep. Pak Kyusik of the minor opposition union of Liberal Democrats (ULD), charging him with distributing about 12 million won of cash and providing six million won worth of feasts to voters during election campaigning late last month.

Pak is the first incumbent lawmaker who has been put under arrest for alleged wrongdoings during the parliamentary election Thursday.

Four aides of Pak, already under detention for distributing money for Pak, confessed that Pak gave them the money and instructed them to distribute the money, according to the prosecution.

The prosecution issued summonses for Rep. Pak in four occasions but Pak refused to honor them.

The prosecution charges that Pak distributed the money to invite "clapping supporters" to a joint speech session in Puchon-Sosa electoral district, west of Seoul, March 29.

The Prosecutor General's Office meanwhile said that 97 lawmakers-elect are under investigation for violations of various election laws. The number represent 32.4 percent of the total 299 lawmakers-elect.

The 97 lawmakers-elect breaks down by parties to 44 New Korea Party members, 10 National Council for

New Politics, 11 Union of Liberal Democrats, four Democratic Party and one independent.

ROK: NKP Chairman's Absence From Luncheon Raises Questions

SK1404040696 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 14 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It was an occasion for celebration when President Kim Yong-sam hosted a luncheon for top officials from his ruling New Korea Party yesterday.

But the absence of Chairman Kim Yun-hwan from the Chongwadae party seemed to dampen the festive mood among the participants, who had pulled off a near victory in the general elections.

Chairman Kim informed the presidential office through his chief secretary yesterday morning that he was not attending the party because of his schedule in his electoral district in North Kyongsang Province.

"He decided to come up to Seoul after thanking his campaign workers who had fought one of the fiercest battles," said Yun Won-chung, his chief secretary.

Nevertheless, it was odd for Chairman Kim second in party leadership to President Kim, not to attend the party. Given the party's rigid hierarchy, it was inconceivable for him to boycott the party President Kim was hosting.

Both leading party officials and presidential aides were quick in playing down Chairman Kim's absence from the party.

Rep. Kang Sam-chae, secretary-general of the party said, "Chairman Kim said he finds it difficult to attend the (Chongwadae) luncheon because of the events he is scheduled to attend in his electoral district. We consented (to his absence). 'There is no reason why he should be displeased (with the party leadership),' Kang said.

President Kim also understood him, said presidential secretaries.

Despite their assurances that his absence was no big problem, it spawned speculation that he is sending a message about his political future to President Kim at a time when his status is weakening in the party.

Chairman Kim, who is also a caretaker of a conservative party faction rivaling the other reform-minded one closer to President Kim, may have felt threatened by the rise in status of recent recruits such as former Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang and Pak Chan-chong.

They were given much credit when the party won 139 of the 299 National Assembly seats in Thursday's elections — 121 seats in popular voting and the rest on proportional representation.

It was a feat that not many people had anticipated. Though it failed to win a majority, the party can forge one by inviting independent and opposition lawmakers into its folds.

Chairman Kim did not appear to have anticipated such an election outcome.

During his campaigns, he hinted that he would bolt from the New Korea Party and create a new conservative party if the ruling party should fail to win a majority in popular voting.

He told a Japanese daily, "I would have to consider a new conservative party if the ruling party should fail to win a majority.

"The New Korea Party aims to win a majority. But I find it difficult. If it fails to carry 120 electoral districts or more, the political landscape will be reshaped to a considerable extent," he said.

ROK: Six Arrested for Helping Chon, No Hide Illegal Funds

SK1404033696 Seoul YONHAP in English
1303 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP) — The prosecution Saturday arrested six employees of financial institutions and private moneylenders, accusing them of helping former presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u stash over 14.6 billion won into accounts of others.

They were all charged with violating the real name financial transaction law banning people from putting their money into other people's accounts.

The arrested received tens of millions of won to over 1.3 billion won in exchange for arranging for the two former presidents to find people who were willing to keep Chon's 7.15 billion won and No's 75 billion won in their bank accounts.

The prosecution said that it will soon take steps to confiscate the money kept under other people's names.

ROK: Chon Admits Using Nearly 600 Billion Won in 'Secret Funds'

SK1504103396 Seoul YONHAP in English
1025 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP) — Former President Chon Tu-hwan said Monday he used

597.4 billion won in secret funds during his presidency from 1980 through 1988.

During the second session of his trial on the suspected illicit raising of huge slush funds at the Seoul District Court, Chon said the money was part of the 700 billion won he raised personally in his Chongwadae [presidential offices] years.

At the trial, lawyers cross-questioned Chon and five other co-defendants — An Hyon-tae, Song Yong-uk, An Mu-hyok, Sakong Il and Chong Ho-yong.

"The secret fund I raised was a pure political fund in the collection of which no coercion was employed at all," Chon said.

He said the amount he used included 197.4 billion won in a 1987 presidential election fund, 30 billion won in founding his Democratic Justice Party, 20 billion won in party funds every year from 1981 through 1987, and 90 billion won in general election funds in 1981 and 1985.

The prosecution said Chon Tu-hwan had 140.4 billion won in securities at the time he stepped down from presidency in 1988 and the money seemed to have swollen to 212.9 billion won by 1992 due to interests.

Chon's financial assets amounted to 177.6 billion won at the time his secret fund began to be probed late last year, of which about 143 billion won is believed to be still owned by Chon, the prosecution said.

Out of the 212.9 billion won he had as of 1992, the prosecution said, Chon used by late last year 28.5 billion won in "managing" politicians close to him, 3.7 billion won in "managing" his relatives, and 3 billion won in supports for the 1992 general elections.

Reversing his earlier statement that he had distributed 88 billion won to politicians and journalists after his retirement, Chon said he did not give any money to journalists, saying his earlier statement was a mistake.

Asked if he is not going to disclose the names of the politicians to whom he gave money, Chon refused, saying "I still think it is better not to disclose the recipients."

Chon stressed that he never forced businessmen to give him money and never received any money in return for some favors, and that he personally managed the political fund.

The next third trial of Chon and others on Chon's secret fund is set to take place on April 29, during which the prosecution is expected to demand sentences for four of the six involved excepting Chon and Chong ho-yong.

ROK: NCNP, ULD Seeking Alliance To Counter NKP

SK1504014396 (Internet) The Chungang Ilbo WWW in English 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The three opposition parties, National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), the United Liberal Democrats (ULD) and the Democratic Party (DP) are seeking to form an alliance in order to counter and check the ruling New Korea Party (NKP) in its attempts to gain a majority in the 15th National Assembly by drawing in newly elected lawmakers from the minor opposition Democratic Party and independent lawmakers.

NCNP and ULD are reportedly already pursuing a meeting between NCNP leader Kim Tae-chung and ULD leader Kim Chong-pil through unofficial contacts.

Kim Chong-pil stated on the afternoon of the 13th at his home that "a meeting with Chairman Kim Tae-chung will take place in the near future", hinting that preparations are underway to arrange a meeting between the two Kims. Chairman Kim Tae-chung also stated at his house in Ilsan on the 14th that he will "announce the future direction for party management including an alliance between other opposition parties at the convention of elected lawmakers to be held on the 16th."

ROK: Profile of Newly Appointed DPRK Ambassador to UN

SK1204065896 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 12 Apr 96 p10

[Report by Pak Hae-ok]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kim Hyong-u, 62, newly-appointed ambassador to the North Korean mission to the United Nations, is a seasoned diplomat and theorist widely known in the international community for his numerous trips abroad and his attendance at international conferences.

Kim was appointed as vice minister of foreign affairs in September 1977 at the age of 43. He later served as ambassador to Switzerland and standing observer to the Geneva-based UN Secretariat. He is now working as deputy director of the International Department of the Workers Party of Korea.

Kim participated in the North Korea-U.S. high-level talks held in New York in November 1992, and he attended the talks between Kim Yong-sun and a Carnegie Endowment delegation during the delegation's trip to North Korea. Likewise, he has been deeply involved in North Korea's diplomacy toward the United States.

ROK: ROK Signs Agreement on Granting Privileges to OECD Mission

SK1504075596 Seoul YONHAP in English
0436 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP) — South Korea and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) signed an agreement Monday on granting privileges and immunities to South Korean officials dispatched to the OECD once Seoul is granted membership, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The agreement calls for Seoul's mission to the OECD to enjoy similar privileges to those accorded to United Nations missions.

ROK: AMCHAM: 'Considerable Effort' Needed for ROK To Join OECD

SK1504095496 Seoul YONHAP in English
0833 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP) — The American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) in Korea said Monday that South Korea's admission into the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD] would take a "considerable effort" by the government if it hopes to gain membership this year.

"The leadership of Korea must take the initiative to overcome the developing country syndrome and openly declare itself a developed country," said AMCHAM President George F. Williams, Jr.

In his press release titled "Korea's Success Is Our Success," Williams noted South Korea continues to lag behind other Asian nations in terms of facilitating foreign investment. Despite its aggressive drive to liberalize its economy, Seoul's attempt to improve the trade and investment climate here has been "slow to gain acceptance in the area of public opinion and support."

"Frequently, trade barriers and import restrictions are eliminated but soon replaced with new bureaucratic red tape or other non-tariff trade barriers," he said.

Excessive regulation, transparency issues and import processes continue to bog business activity down, according to Williams. Foreign automotive, insurance, telecom and agricultural firms, faced with strong Ko-

rean competitors and "sensitive cultural implications," will have a particularly tough time penetrating the market, he added.

The United States had a 50-billion U.S. dollar bilateral trade surplus with South Korea last year, and Williams said the surplus would continue due to increasingly competitive U.S. firms and the declining Korean share of the American consumer products market.

As a result, he said, Korean firms are increasingly targeting markets in developing nations.

President Kim Yong-sam's "globalization" policy has brought results, especially at the higher levels, in an effort to foster a favorable environment for trade and foreign investment, the AMCHAM head pointed out.

"However, the overall trade and investment environment still closely resembles the Japanese model versus the more open approach of most other Asian nations."

The one area in need of the most change is the financial sector, according to Williams, with foreign exchange controls, offshore financing, high interest rates, and banking and securities reforms giving potential investors the most worry.

In intellectual property rights (IPR), Williams noted consistent enforcement of the laws and appropriate penalties for violators as being problematic, with chemical, textile and software firms still complaining of major violations.

"Overall, Korea has made significant progress in IPR protection over the last few years, but additional work is required."

Wages are still outpacing productivity here, Williams claimed, but the gap has narrowed.

The AMCHAM head reiterated his organization's support to grant South Korea visa-free status for travel to the United States, saying that because of the long and tedious process to obtain a visa, Korean tourists are choosing to go elsewhere.

Williams estimated that for Hawaii alone, more than 500 million dollars may have been lost in potential revenue from Korean tourists last year.

Burma

Burma: Wa Army Declares End to War With Mong Tai Army

BK1204140796 Bangkok PHUCHATKAN in Thai 12 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] An informed source in the United Wa State Army (UWSA) disclosed to PHUCHATKAN that the UWSA has declared an end to its rivalry with the Mong Tai Army (MTA). The Wa army also said that, although the two sides had fought each other in the past, the Wa army has never regarded itself as an enemy of the MTA, which is an ethnic group that lives with them in Shan State. The Wa army regards Khun Sa as its only enemy. Wa said that the acts of aggression between the Wa and Mong Tai armies in the past were only the result of economic conflict. Khun Sa has currently withdrawn. Therefore, the Wa side considers the rivalry between the two sides to have ended.

Meanwhile, the UWSA force was in the past under the leadership of Kyauk Nyi Lai and the military command of Pao Yo Chang and was affiliated with the Communist Party of Burma (CPB). After the CPB collapsed, the Wa force withdrew and surrendered to the Burmese Government in 1989.

The UWSA became rivals of the MTA thereafter, and the cause of the conflict between them was the struggle for the Doi Lang area, opposite Mae Ai District in Chiang Mai Province. The reason was that this area was useful to them for producing and transporting heroin into Thailand. Such activities served as an economic base to earn income to support their armies.

After Khun Sa surrendered to Burma on 7 January of this year, the Burmese Government sent its troops to occupy the major strategic points in Doi Lang and ordered the UWSA force to move north, despite the Wa's proposal to take control of that area after the Khun Sa force withdrew.

The informed source also disclosed that Burma has dispatched a force of about 800 men to be stationed at a base in Doi Lang and has moved a UWSA commando unit comprising 2,000 men under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Sai Taeng [name as transliterated] from its base at Doi Sam Sao to Mong Hsat. Burma also ordered the Wa army's Brigade 525, with 4,000 men under the leadership of Colonel Ngao Wu [name as transliterated], to move back to the main headquarters in Panghsai from a base in Mong Yawng. It is believed that these major military changes will have repercussions on the narcotics situation.

In addition, the informed source in the UWSA's information section has denied reports that its force would cut off a water pipeline from Burma to Thai territory at Doi Mae Salong to use in bargaining with the Thai side for the opening of a border pass. This leaked information was said to be only the personal view of an individual and not a decision of the committee.

Burma: Wa Guerrillas Review Military, Political Strategies

BK1404110196 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 14 Apr 96 p A3

[Report by Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Burma's armed ethnic Wa guerrillas will begin a three-day conference today at their Panghsai headquarters on the Sino-Burmese border to review political and military strategies and work out a future plan of action.

Wa leaders from both the northern and southern commands will attend the meeting, according to senior Wa officials.

Panghsai was formerly the headquarters of the Burma Communist Party (BCP) until the United Wa State Army (UWSA) toppled the Maoist Burmese leaders in early 1989, forcing them to flee into China.

Although the UWSA held a big celebration last year on April 17 to mark the fifth anniversary of their mutiny against the BCP leaders, this year's ceremony will be low-key.

The conference takes place amid growing tension between the Wa group and Burma's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc). In February, the UWSA was asked to withdraw their 500 soldiers from an area in the northern Shan State under control of the ethnic Chinese Kokang, their allies.

The order followed the Slorc's takeover of the area after the split of the Kokang's Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army into three factions: the Yang family, the Pheung family, and the Mong Zha-la and Li I-ming faction.

The Wa and Kokang struck a ceasefire deal with the Slorc in 1989 shortly after their revolt against the BCP.

Ethnic sources confirmed that the Burmese army has gained full control of the Kokang area in the northern Shan Plateau west of the Salween River. Several Burmese battalions are being deployed across the terrain, they said.

The Burmese army has exploited the serious split of the Kokang group to move its troops into the area.

They (Burmese troops) have tried to force the Kokang factions to surrender their arms, but so far the Pheung family and Mong Zha-la still resist," said one ethnic source.

However, the source said the two factions were too weak to resist the Siorc forces for much longer. He said it would be difficult for the Kokang factions to reunite and predicted that the Burmese army would later transform the Kokang soldiers into a militia force like opium warlord Khun Sa's Mong Tai Army (MTA).

The Pheung family has less than 300 soldiers. Mong Zha-la has about 400, he added.

The Wa officials said about 500 Wa soldiers under the command of Aie Neung were later instructed by the Burmese troops to move out of the Kokang area by Feb 26 or give up their arms.

Burma: Radio Reports 29 Rebels Surrender in Mar

BK1104020096 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Summary] According to a report from Rangoon Radio Myanmar, 29 insurgents surrendered in March.

The reports says seven ABSDF [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] insurgents surrendered in the northern military command region; two Karen rebels gave themselves up in the southern military command region; six Karen rebels together with two M-16 automatic rifles, two M-22 automatic rifles, three magazines, 200 rounds of ammunition, and one hand grenade; 12 ABSDF rebels, and two BCP [Burma Communist Party] rebels together with two hand grenades surrendered in southeast military command region.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Malaysia: Prime Minister Leaves for West Europe, Balkans

BK1504074796 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur: Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed left for Europe last night to begin his tour of three Balkan states.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by his wife Datin Sri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

In England, Dr Mahathir is to give a talk on Islam at Oxford University on Tuesday.

The next day he will visit Mowag Industry which specialises in military equipment in Zurich.

He begins his four-day visit to Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia on April 18.

In Sarajevo, Dr Mahathir will hold talks with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and hand over a RM [Malaysian ringgit] 3.2 million donation collected from Malaysian teachers and students.

Malaysian Minister on Commitment to Bosnia's Reconstruction

BK1204111896 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0810 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Malaysia has again reaffirmed its commitment towards the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Bosnia by offering commercial, economic, and technical cooperation to the war-ravaged state.

This reaffirmation of Malaysia's commitment was made by Defense Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar who was in Sarajevo. The minister was in Bosnia to attend the Organization of Islamic Conference, OIC, meeting to discuss common stand on rebuilding Bosnia. Attending the meeting are defense and foreign ministers from OIC member countries. A worthy note to mention is that the meeting marks the first high-level meeting conducted in the region ever since war began in 1992.

According to Datuk Syed Hamid, Malaysia will encourage its private sector to complement the government's efforts in rebuilding Bosnia. The private sector will be encouraged to explore the potentials offered in the Bosnian rebuilding process. These efforts by the private sector will be over and above other aid and assistance provided by the government.

Datuk Syed Hamid made clear Malaysia's intention to continue helping Bosnia to Defence Minister Vladimir Zoljic and Foreign Minister Dr. Jadranko Prlic. The two ministers said they informed Datuk Syed Hamid of Bosnia's dire need of assistance and several financial pledges have yet to materialize. These pledges made by the West — the United States and Europe — are critical to the rebuilding process but have not yet materialized, leaving the peace process fragile since it is important that rebuilding commence immediately.

Datuk Syed Hamid's visit is a prelude to Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed's visit to Bosnia next week. With Dr. Mahathir's visit, Malaysia's assistance will be further enhanced. The prime minister on this trip will be bringing with him members of the Malaysian private sector. This way the private sector can see the best way for their assistance to be utilized.

While talking to reporters, Datuk Syed Hamid also admonished Western media for negating the work of the OIC in helping the Bosnians. It seems that the media had chosen to ignore the real and the important role played by the OIC in bringing peace to the Balkans. In fact, and to a large extent, what prompted the ending of Bosnian Serb atrocities during the war was the involvement of the OIC.

Under Malaysia's active guidance, the OIC had taken upon itself to assist the Bosnians in their time of most urgent need and that prompted the international community to actually do anything about the situation. The world opinion should remember that while the United Nations was facing an uncertain time getting any control over the war, it was the OIC which came together to put some sense of order and balance in the situation. And this was what prompted the Dayton Peace Accord.

On the part of Malaysia, it has always been at the forefront in its fight for justice in the region. Malaysia had been involved in Bosnia long before the OIC came into the picture and throughout the conflict Malaysian presence can be strongly felt. From sending troops to serve as United Nations peacekeepers to providing self-refuge to Bosnian citizens in this country, Malaysia has always been there for the Bosnians.

Malaysia: Mahathir Views Construction of Thai Border Wall

BK1304113096 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 13 Apr 96

[Report by V. Chandrasekaran and Anthony Tan — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Padang Besar — Thailand should not regard the construction of the 27 km-long border wall as being unfriendly towards them, Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed said. He said the wall would, among others, help check smuggling activities.

"The RM [Malaysian ringgit] 58 million border wall running from Bukit Putih in Perlis to Sintok in Kedah is aimed at facilitating administrative matters along the border areas," he said when opening the RM6.9 million integrated complex of the Immigration and Fisheries Development Authority yesterday.

The new complex houses offices of the state Immigration, Customs, police, Road Transport and Agriculture departments and Fisheries Authority office.

"The wall will help manage the two-way flow of tourists and goods in an orderly and systematic manner and curb smuggling activities.

"I am sure our Thai counterparts will not want goods from Malaysia to be smuggled into their country, as much as we do not want their goods to be smuggled into the country," Dr Mahathir said.

He stressed that the border wall was being built a few metres away from the actual international boundary and was on Malaysian soil.

"As such, there should be no confusion over the area the border wall is being constructed on," he said.

On the development of Padang Besar, the Prime Minister said the town, which was once a cowboy town, had now developed fast with good infrastructural facilities.

He said the town's potential could further be tapped, and it's vantage point under the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) was an added advantage to its continued growth.

On a proposal by Mentri Besar [Chief Minister] Datuk Sri Shahidan Kassim in his speech earlier to make Padang Besar a duty-free area, Dr Mahathir said the Government would consider the proposal and would bring the matter up at the Cabinet meeting.

He also commended the Padang Besar checkpoint area as being the most well-maintained one along the Malaysia-Thai border.

At an earlier function, Dr Mahathir attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new 702-hectare industrial park in Sungai Cucuk, about 10 km from here, and witnessed the signing of 21 Memoranda of Understanding [MoU] for joint venture projects in Perlis between the state government and the Perlis State Development Corporation and other local and foreign investors.

Among others, the MoUs were for small and medium-scale industries, land reclamation projects, construction of inland cargo depot, institutions of higher learning and manufacturing of light aircraft components parts and 19-seater aircraft.

The new industrial park would have, among others, a town centre, research and development centre and various industries.

Singapore

Singapore: Entry of More Asian Countries Into ARF Urged

BK1404105696 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Apr 96 p 36

[Editorial: "ARF Security in Numbers"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is an easy logic to the contention that drawing countries like India and Myanmar [Burma] into the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

should be regarded as evolutionary and thus, inevitable. No doubt, the seven ASEAN countries acknowledge that. Their officials who met in Surabaya this week ahead of the third annual ARF ministerial meeting in Indonesia this year are said to be ready to urge this on the other 12 members of the security grouping. First off, it makes sense to gather round a table rather than to freeze out those countries which are party to long-standing disputes, regardless of whether these are localised conflicts or have potential to spread beyond their borders. Thus, the standoff over Kashmir that has troubled India-Pakistan relations and intimations of nuclear rivalry between them will make the subcontinent a flashpoint for a long time to come. Those in the security business ought not pretend otherwise. Besides, India is just too big to ignore. As for Myanmar, it has had its share of problems with Thailand because of cross-border fights between rival Karen separatist factions. Also, its military ties with Beijing can change the power equation in the under-belly of China, not least on the Myanmar side facing the Bay of Bengal. At any rate, Myanmar will become an automatic member as soon as it joins ASEAN, which can be expected by the end of the decade.

As the ARF had been deemed necessary, as a strategic tool, to reduce the probability of conflict by getting member nations to talk through their animosities, the argument against too-rapid membership expansion then misses the point. That the ARF can get too big or unwieldy is irrelevant. What is too many? The criterion surely must be this: would taking in more members (not only India and Myanmar) help the ARF in its mission of keeping Asia as free of war and tension as it is possible to make it? On the available evidence, yes. By the same logic, the argument can be extended to say that Asia would be better off with Pakistan and North Korea in rather than out-and the sooner the better. Both these countries have been enquiring about membership. Both also happen to be involved in festering disputes with immediate neighbours. In both scenarios, but more so in the Korean case as is evident in the latest flare-up, trouble will not be restricted to their neighbourhoods. The upcoming ARF ministerial conference, at which Indonesia is to report on membership criteria, should make a firm decision on accepting Asian flashpoint states. They have a far stronger claim than the puzzling request from France and Britain, which are represented in the ARF through European Union bloc membership, or Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

There is one caveat, however. While the two-year-old ARF is rightly described as an embryonic organism, with "confidence-building" and "comfort level" among members having to be worked at as a matter of faith, it has to show fairly soon that it has the capability

to influence events in the Asian sphere. Otherwise it can develop into a social club, exactly what its proponents say it must not be. In the recent China-Taiwan tension, the ARF as a multi-national mechanism played no part. Perhaps, and rightly so, this was because China would brook no interference over a sovereignty matter. Neither, as far as can be ascertained, has it been exercising its diplomatic clout over the current game of brinkmanship in the Korean peninsula. That should fall within the scope of promoting dialogue on security issues on a bilateral, regional and sub-regional basis. This was one of the goals set at the second ministerial meeting in Brunei last year. But if the ARF had been asserting its moral suasion on the quiet, as it has over the Spratlys issue, then all power to it. In short, it is not too early to move beyond the confidence building phase, which has been going well, to the more purposeful area of preventive diplomacy. It need not remain diffident for its being a loose, informal entity.

Singapore: Defense Minister Receives Malaysia's Armed Forces Chief

BK1304090596 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES
in English 12 Apr 96 p 44

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Malaysian Armed Forces' Chief, General Datuk Che Mohamed Noor Mat Arshad, called on Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Tony Tan yesterday.

The general is here on a three-day visit at the invitation of the Chief of Army, Brigadier-General Han Eng Juan.

He reviewed a guard of honour and called on the Chief of Defence Force, Major-General Bey Soo Khiang, before meeting Dr. Tan.

This is his third visit to Singapore.

Regular visits and meetings between senior officers of the two countries' armed forces foster mutual understanding and build rapport, the Ministry of Defence said in a statement yesterday.

General Che Mohamed Noor's visit follows the second Malaysia-Singapore Defense Forum which was held in Kuala Lumpur last month.

At the forum, both sides endorsed a programme for professional interaction between the Malaysian Armed Forces' 3MID and Singapore Armed Forces' 3rd Division.

The two armed forces interact regularly in bilateral military exercises, courses and in exchange visits. They

also take part in exercises under the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA).

Mindef [Ministry of Defense] said that Malaysia and Singapore were committed to the FPDA and saw its continued relevance for regional stability.

Cambodia

Cambodia: Sihanouk Appeals to Khmer Rouge To Release Hostage

BK1204151396 Hong Kong AFP in English
1132 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Phnom Penh, April 12 (AFP) — Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk Friday issued an appeal to the Khmer Rouge leadership for the release of a British mine clearance expert and his Cambodian translator taken hostage two weeks ago.

"I have sent a letter to his excellency Khieu Samphan and the Democratic Kampuchea Party (Khmer Rouge) and the armed forces of the National Army of the Democratic Kampuchea requesting the release and return (of the hostages) back to the zone controlled by the Royal Government of Cambodia," the King wrote.

"I will not hesitate in making public the content of the response on this subject by H.E. Khieu Samphan," the King wrote in a April 12 statement released by the Royal Palace Friday, referring to the nominal leader of the Khmer Rouge.

Christopher Howes, 36 of Bristol, England, and his translator, Huon Hourth, were abducted March 26 by a group of armed men linked with the Maoist rebels while conducting demining activities in a remote part of Siem Reap province.

Police and officials said they believe the kidnappers, thought to be led by a senior aide to the feared Khmer Rouge guerrilla army's chief of staff Ta Mok, have been moved towards rebel-held territory near the Thai border.

"As far as we know the two men have been moved by the Khmer Rouge about 20 kilometers east of (the Khmer Rouge-stronghold of) Anlong Veng," said deputy governor of Siem Reap province Kong Heang Friday, who identified the location of the hostages as Sakhach Pram Pi (Seven Sand) area.

"We are optimistic they are still alive," he added.

Though the Khmer Rouge have denied responsibility for the abduction, Siem Reap governor Toan Chay said late last month that there was a risk of the situation turning from an abduction for ransom into a political stand-off.

"The Khmer Rouge consider this a political case, not one motivated by ransom," a Royal Cambodian Armed

Forces (RCAF) military intelligence officer familiar with the case said Friday.

Cambodia: Khmer Rouge Chief Gives New Year Message

BK1304153796 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Greetings message From Khieu Samphan, prime minister and minister of the National Army of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation, on the 13 April Cambodian Traditional New Year; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beloved and respected compatriots and beloved comrades-in-arms, who are cadres and male and female combatants:

On our traditional new year, the year of the rat, Buddhist Era 2539, I, on behalf of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation [PGNUNS], would like to convey best wishes to all of you and our beloved compatriots, at home and abroad. May you be endowed with zealous fighting spirit so you can continue to uphold your banner of high heroism at all times. May you be further crowned with all kinds of great successes in the nation-loving and nation-saving struggle that we all will continue, until the communist Vietnamese war of aggression is ended absolutely and until peace and national reconciliation is absolutely restored.

This year, our entire nation and people have joined forces to pursue the struggle, and the new and great successes that we have scored have brought about the following situation:

1. With the support and aid from our entire nation and people, our national resistance forces and the PGNUNS are still able to remain intact and to uphold the nation-saving and race-saving banner with the highest national pride. We have continued to expand in the political, military, economic, and other fields and sectors.
2. In the last rainy season, and especially during the current dry season, the two-headed invading forces, the tools of communist Vietnam and the alliance's war of aggression, have been defeated and have disintegrated more severely. They have no troops left for large-scale offensives against our nation, people, and national resistance forces. Their numbers of old troops have depleted, as they are killed, wounded, or disabled. They have also fled from the battlefield in force, in entire units, by the hundreds, or by tens of thousands. Their remaining officers and rank and file, who have been demoralized, are afraid to go and fight. They are no longer able to draft new troops. The administrators of

the communist Vietnamese puppets at various villages and communes, who are the goonish instruments forcing soldiers and militiamen to go to battle, have been smashed and swept away one after the other by our peasants, in particular the poor compatriot peasants. In the coming rainy season, they will certainly be in more severe agony.

3. The nation-betraying and nation-selling regime of the out- and-out lackeys of communist Vietnam and the alliance is disintegrating, tumbling down, and plunging into the abyss in military, political, economic, social, and other fields or sectors. Their conflicts with our nation and people of all social strata have become more gigantic, acute, and deep-rooted.

Honorable political figures who are not afraid of them and who refuse to kneel down and serve them also have acute conflicts with them. The former have clearly seen that the two heads no longer exist at present. Only one head remains — the head of Hun Sen, who is the absolute communist Vietnamese puppet. Communist Vietnam and its puppets and lackeys have dissolved FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party of His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann at will. They have eliminated H.E. Sam Rangsri at will, and arrested and put Prince Sirivut in the Grand Prison and exiled him at will. The evil Prince Ranariddh, nourished and aided and abetted by the United States and the alliance to betray the nation and FUNCINPEC and abandon FUNCINPEC to become a two head with this guy Hun Sen, who is the communist Vietnamese puppet and out-and-out lackey, is now dying. Even the alliance is aware of this and the beginning of the conflicts.

Beloved and respected compatriots and comrades-in-arms. The successes that I have mentioned above are another great victory won by you and our entire people, who have joined hands to carry out the most vigorous and tenacious struggle with high heroism and the highly-rated stance of relying on the forces of the nation and people.

On this occasion, we would like to specifically commend, with respects, the comrades-in-arms of our National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK], who have resolutely joined our nation and people to implement the policy of waging the guerrilla and people's warfare more effectively to rout the 18th-dry-season military operations launched by the two heads, who are the out-and-out lackeys of communist Vietnamese and the alliance, inflicting defeats more serious than those in the past years on them. Moreover, all of us have also clearly realized that the successes belong to the over 7

million compatriot peasants, especially the more than 6 million poor compatriot peasants, who have experienced sufferings or have been killed or separated in an untold manner. They have also have lost all of their land, rice fields, and orchards. The poor peasants, who have been empty-handed and have starved due to the communist Vietnamese war of aggression over the past 17 years, have risen up and waged a struggle for their own survival.

The peasants have carried out the struggle themselves and have also joined the NADK to pursue the struggle. Everywhere, they have increased the production of strategic weapons such as punji stakes, punji pits, poison-tipped stakes, and poisonous stakes. They have emerged as the forces cutting off supply lines, the small and large blood-vessels of the enemies. They have also loomed as the forces dismantling a growing number of enemy administrations in villages and communes. Cutting off the enemy supply lines, dismantling the enemy administrations in villages and communes, and wresting back their rice fields and farmlands are precise strikes against the enemies' weak points. Strategically, the actions are aimed at gouging out the eyes, piercing the ears, chopping off the limbs, and hindering the economy of the enemies in all ways. The actions are also aimed at preventing the enemies from drafting the peasants to serve as soldiers or militiamen, causing their forces and the number of their troops to deplete. The goal of these actions is to liberate more and more rural areas and set millions of peasants free from the devil claw of the enemies. It is also to give stronger encouragement to the resistance forces of our nation and people of all social strata in Phnom Penh and overseas, so that they can fight better.

The successes belong to our compatriots and people from all other walks of life in Phnom Penh and provinces, who are filled with national and racial hatred against the enemy communist Vietnamese aggressors and their out-and-out lackey puppets with this guy Hun Sen, who is the ringleader of the group of the most fascist and cruel goons.

The successes belong to students and journalists who love the nation, rights, freedom, democracy, and justice. They abhor and oppose the corrupt nation-betraying and nation-selling two heads, who have ceaselessly suppressed them. The two heads have gone so far as to assign the Vietnamese Dac Cong troops to beat, kick, and kill the students and journalists with impunity.

The successes belong to former FUNCINPEC members and voters who still adhere to the FUNCINPEC political platform, and who oppose this guy Ranariddh. Ranariddh has betrayed the nation and FUNCINPEC.

broken the promises he made during the 1993 elections, kowtowed, and served as an out-and-out lackey of Hun Sen and the race-exterminating communist Vietnamese aggressors.

The successes belong to our nation's political figures who have experienced terrible pain from the communist Vietnam and the ethnic Vietnamese having swallowed up chunks of our territory in east Cambodia, the seas, islands, and seabeds. They have destroyed our economy, natural resources above and under the ground, rubber, forests, and fish. They have ruined our cultural heritage, literature, the arts, temples, and antiques; and dismantled and defiled our national society and traditions with all sorts of vices. Those politicians have strived to carry out activities according to the realities and their abilities.

The successes belong to our overseas compatriots who do not want Cambodia to be turned into a second Kampuchea Kraom and who have closely joined our nation and people inside the country to continue the ceaseless patriotic struggle.

All the successes achieved by our nation and people have clearly shown that in just three years — since communist Vietnam and the alliance colluded to trample upon the Paris accord, sabotaging peace and national reconciliation and giving premature birth to the two heads so they can use them as tools to further fan the flames of the communist Vietnamese war of aggression to do away with the Cambodian nation and people — the two-headed regime has lost everything. It has become bogged down and has rotted extensively and is twisting and agonizing in all fields and sectors.

Beloved and respected compatriots and comrades-in-arms. It is asked: What will the nation-betraying regime of the out-and-out lackeys of communist Vietnamese and the alliance become? It will continue to suffer more extensive losses, get stuck in the quagmire, become more rotten, and twist and agonize in all fields and sectors until it breathes its last. Why? Because:

1. The Cambodian nation is a heroic nation and the Cambodian people are a heroic people, who are experienced in and have painstakingly perpetuated the struggle. Our nation and people have clearly seen, understood, and known from experience that if we rely on our own nation and people's forces to wage all forms of tenacious and constant struggles in the countryside, cities, and abroad, we are able to strengthen and expand our forces gradually. As for the enemies, both old and new, and their out-and-out nation-betraying and nation-selling lackeys, their forces continue to diminish and scatter until they disintegrate and collapse completely.

Experience from the past more than 17 years, especially the one from the past three years, has affirmed this truth. Moreover, with each passing day, month, and year, the situation has clearly separated white from black, treason from patriotism, invasion and extermination of the Cambodian race from the struggle to save the nation and race, and those who have been fooled by communist Vietnam and the alliance into killing themselves from those who have joined the entire nation and people to struggle for their survival.

2. The nature of communist Vietnam, and the United States and the alliance are two contradicting elements fighting each other and competing to devour the flesh and to suck the blood of the Cambodian nation and people. The out-and-out lackey puppets of communist Vietnam and the out-and-out lackey puppets of the United States and the alliance are also two conflicting elements that are fighting each other and competing to devour the flesh and suck the blood of the Cambodian nation and people. In this rivalry, communist Vietnam and its out-and-out lackey puppets have established their domination on the United States and the alliance and their satellites. Communist Vietnam and its puppets have gone so far as to plunder funds and all kinds of aid given by the United States and the alliance to the two heads to feed their forces. The latter have destroyed the U.S.-and-alliance-backed forces in the presence and on the long nose of the United States and the alliance, causing the U.S. and the alliance to vomit blood. However, the United States and the alliance are unable to do anything at all.

Why is communist Vietnam so dominating? Because the United States and the alliance and their satellites have no forces in place and because they have clung on to the tail of communist Vietnamese to sneak into Cambodia. It is also because communist Vietnam own the puppet administrations from Phnom Penh down to provinces, the districts, communes, and villages, and the 4 million Vietnamese that it has put into Cambodia since 1979. These Vietnamese are neither wretched people nor illegal immigrants. They are the goons of the Communist Party of Vietnam, controlling the communist Vietnamese puppets' administrations from Phnom Penh down to provinces, districts, communes, and villages and administering affairs at all ministries. Hun Sen, Chea Sim, Sar Kheng, and the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) of communist Vietnam are only smoke-screens to distract the eyes of the outsiders. Actually, those controlling the Phnom Penh puppets' regime are the CPV, the communist Vietnamese Youth League, various communist Vietnamese organizations, and the over 4 million ethnic Vietnamese. More Vietnamese are pumped in daily.

Therefore, with each passing day, month, and year, the conflicts between communist Vietnam on the one hand and (?Ranariddh) and the alliance on the other, have widened and deepened. Political, economic, financial, social, and other crises confronted by the two-headed regime have multiplied. Worms are burrowing into the flesh and blood of the nation-betraying and nation-selling two heads, the out-and-out lackeys of communist Vietnam and the alliance.

In view of the brilliant prospects, on the celebration of our national new year, I would like to appeal to all of our comrades-in-arms, people, and compatriots to continue to uphold your heroic banners and the banner of great national union by intensifying your struggles under all appearances, until the communist Vietnamese war of aggression is absolutely brought to an end and until the genuine national reconciliation and peace are absolutely achieved. We will join hands to rebuild the country, making it prosper as before.

The world is already well aware that the painstaking struggle of our nation and people along with our PG-NUNS is not aimed at restoring communism, socialism, or narrow-minded nationalism. It is not aimed at fighting, dividing, slandering, or seizing power too. The objective pursued by our nation and people is to restore the right of the Cambodian nation, people, and race to live in an independent and sovereign Cambodia within its territorial integrity.

Our nation and people do not oppose any near or distant country which loves independence, peace, and justice; which respects the UN Charter and international laws, and which neither violates Cambodia nor interfere in its internal affairs. What our nation and people have done is to give respect and the deepest thanks to these near and distant countries.

The situation in Cambodia clearly shows that nothing can be solved with war. Not only has war brought about disaster to the Cambodian nation and people, it has also affected the interests of the countries in the region and endangered regional peace, security, and stability. Therefore, on this occasion, we wish to appeal to all the peace-and justice-loving countries and people in the region and the world to help prevent and end the communist Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia speedily. This is to allow Cambodia to achieve the genuine peace and national reconciliation, thereby benefitting peace and security in the region and the world.

Before concluding, I would like to convey best wishes to all of the beloved comrades-in-arms and compatriots. May this new year bring you every success and zealous physical strength.

Long live the Great National Union Forces of the Cambodian nation and people!

Down with the war of aggression waged by communist Vietnam and the alliance and their out-and-out lackeys!

Indonesia

Indonesia: U.S. Pilot Unconfirmed Victim of 'Shooting Spree'

BK1504044396 Hong Kong AFP in English
0415 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JAKARTA, April 15 (AFP) — An Indonesian army officer ran amok in an Irian Jaya airport on Monday shooting dead 15 people and wounding 14 others, informed sources said.

The lieutenant, a member of the Kopassus special force, opened fire in a hanger at Timika airport which serves the giant, and controversial, Freeport gold and copper mine in the eastern province, a source close to the mine company said.

The source said the shooting spree started without warning just before dawn on Monday and that a U.S. helicopter pilot was among the victims, but the U.S. embassy in Jakarta could not immediately confirm this.

On Sunday, the lieutenant had brought back to the airport the remains of two soldiers hacked to death by villagers near Mapnduma, some 180 kilometres (112 miles) northeast of Timika, the source said.

The villagers had accused the soldiers of having raped two local women near Mapnduma, in the mountainous range of Central Irian, the source said.

Military officials were unavailable to comment on the shooting. But a Roman Catholic church source said he had heard that 15 people had died and 13 others were wounded in a shooting.

The shooting took place two days after Freeport Mc-Morran Copper and Gold Co. chief executive James Moffet was in Timika to discuss measures to ease tension after riots in the mining towns last month that left at least four dead.

Moffet offered local tribal leaders around 15 million dollars a year for community projects and measures to ease the environmental impact of the giant mines.

The rioting was believed to have been the result of simmering resentment among local communities at not seeing the wealth earned from the huge gold and copper mines.

Mapnduma is the site where separatist rebels took 26 people hostage on January 8. The rebels have gradually

released 15 of the hostages but are still holding six European scientists and five Indonesians.

Kopassus has been deployed in Mapnduma to deal with the hostage crisis and restoring security after the March riots in Timika.

The force is headed by Brigadier General Prabowo Subianto, son-in-law of President Suharto.

Indonesia: New Zealand National Killed in Shooting Incident

*BK1504100396 Hong Kong AFP in English
0901 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JAKARTA, April 15 (AFP) — An Indonesian special forces officer ran amok at an airport in the eastern province of Irian Jaya on Monday, shooting dead as many as 16 people and wounding 14 others, informed sources said.

The soldier, a member of the Kopassus special forces which were deployed after rioting erupted at a controversial nearby mining complex, opened fire in a hanger at Timika airport, a source close to the mining company said.

The death toll remained unclear, although the New Zealand embassy confirmed that one of its nationals had been killed.

The official Antara news agency said the soldier had died in the incident, although it was not immediately clear whether the officer had killed himself or was shot dead.

Quoting a senior army officer, Lieutenant-general Suyono, Antara said the killer was believed to have been under heavy stress and was in a state of depression. The name of the soldier was not given.

On Sunday, the lieutenant had brought back to the airport the remains of two soldiers hacked to death by villagers near Mapnduma, a town in the mountainous range of Central Irian, the source said. The villagers had accused the soldiers of raping two local women, the source said.

Mapnduma is located some 180 kilometres (112 miles) northeast of Timika, the largest town near the giant Freeport gold and copper mines.

The region was the theatre for serious rioting last month and a separatist rebellion that caused the authorities to deploy Kopassus.

The exact number killed in Monday's shooting was not immediately clear.

Military officials were unavailable and a Freeport spokesman in Timika, Titi Hala, declined to make any comment.

But a source in Timika said 16 people had died in the shooting and at least 11 of them were soldiers. A Roman Catholic church source put the number at 15 dead and 13 injured.

Another source close to the company said that he heard most of the victims were soldiers who were stationed at the airport.

Suyono quoted by Antara, said 12 people were killed, including an American helicopter pilot, while 11 others were injured in the dawn shooting.

But a spokesperson at the US embassy, Deena Mansoor, said there was no report to the embassy about an American death and "I would tend to think that the report is totally untrue."

New Zealand's first secretary, Michele Wood, told a New Zealander had been killed but declined to give more information. A Freeport source identified the New Zealander as Martin Finlay, a pilot for Airfast aircharter service.

The shooting took place two days after Freeport Mc-Morran Copper and Gold Co. chief executive James Moffet was in Timika to discuss measures to ease tension after the riots, in which at least four people were killed.

Moffet offered local tribal leaders around 15 million dollars a year for community projects and measures to ease the environmental impact of the giant mines.

The rioting was believed to have been the result of simmering resentment among local communities at not seeing the wealth earned from the mines.

Mapnduma is the site where separatist rebels took 26 people hostage on January 8. The rebels have gradually released 15 of the hostages but are still holding six European scientists and five Indonesians.

Indonesia: Role as Possible 'Stabilizing Force' Viewed

*BK1204093996 Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian
12 Apr 96 p 6*

[Editorial: "Indonesia: 'The Hottest Spot'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When the crisis erupted in the Taiwan Straits, no one remembered the warning made by Henry Kissinger when he visited Indonesia on 7 November 1994. The skillful former U.S. secretary of state said: "Threats to Asian countries come from other

Asian countries, not the United States. Asia is not a community but rather a group in which countries strongly compete with one another. Therefore, the United States is not a threat. Moreover, no Asian country feels threatened by the U.S. presence in this region."

Apparently, U.S. political, economic, and defense interests will always be strongly linked with Asia. Although the U.S. role as the world's "sheriff" is waning, the United States will lose its image as a superpower if it loses its influence in Asia.

Within the context of maintaining influence in Asia, fears of losing Indonesia seem to be in the minds of thinkers in Washington. This was disclosed by William M. Davidson, a big businessman who invests in Indonesia. He expressed his fear frankly during interviews with Pete Engardio in Hong Kong and Sally Gelston in Jakarta. The interviews were published in the 27 August 1994 edition of *BUSINESS WEEK*.

Foreign investment is rising under the New Order government. Indonesia offers cheaper labor than its neighbors in Southeast Asia. Security is stable here compared to the Philippines, which has been undermined by rebellions mounted by the communists and Moro separatists. Basically, Indonesia enjoys political and economic stability, although the issue of a succession in the national leadership hovers over the nation. Indeed, nothing is perfect. Political transition could trigger social tension. There is also a gap between wealthy businessmen and the millions of poor people who live on the outskirts of Jakarta and numerous dirty villages. Moreover, the Indonesian middle class is stepping up its demands for political liberalization and some military officers want reform.

Alex Glicksman, a consultant for the U.S. Government and private industry dealing with nonproliferation, visited Jakarta at the end of March. The consultant, an expert on managing conflicts and security in South Asia and East Asia as well as on defense industries, said during a limited panel discussion with representatives from several Indonesian newspapers that it was time for Indonesia to think of making itself the core of a regional defense system. Indonesia's defense budget is very limited because of the country's per capita income. Nevertheless, Indonesia occupies a strategic position. Neighbors that share common interests with Indonesia could help resolve the budget problem.

Indeed, what the United States wants from Indonesia cannot be misinterpreted. It is time for Indonesia to become a regional stabilizing force and a strong shield for Australia and New Zealand. Such a role cannot be expected from India, Pakistan, or Sri Lanka let alone

Bangladesh, which is beset by domestic unrest. Time is running short, as North Korea is resorting to all means to try to undermine South Korea's stability. Indonesia is expected to streamline its defense posture as soon as possible and not to forget that the country could become the hottest of hot spots.

Indonesia: Ukrainian President Kuchma Concludes Visit

BK1304141896 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, his wife Ludmyla, and their entourage left Bali today, ending their four-day visit to Indonesia. The Ukrainian president was seen off at Denpasar's Ngurah Rai Airport by Minister for Public Housing Akbar Tanjung, Balinese Governor Ida Bagus Oka, and Brigadier General Syahrir, chief of staff of the Udayana Ninth Regional Military Command. During his stay in Bali, the Ukrainian president and his entourage were guests of the Balinese governor and spent some time at Sanur beach.

Indonesia: Japan Voices Concern Over National Car Project

BK1304135996 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 13 Apr 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS — Japan has no plan to react to Indonesia's national car project for which Presidential Decree no. 2/1996 was issued. It has so far only voiced its concern over the Indonesian Government's policy.

A diplomatic source in Jakarta told KOMPAS on 12 April that officials of the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) were shocked to learn about Indonesia's national car project when it was announced last February.

"Japan's concern was already relayed to Tunky Ariwibowo, Indonesian minister of industries and trade, who was visiting Japan a few days ago," said the source. Tunky returned to Jakarta on 12 April from the visit aimed at explaining Jakarta's policy, which has caused distress among Japanese auto industry officials.

During his three-day visit, Tunky held talks with Japanese Foreign Ministry officials and MITI Minister Shumpei Tsukahara, who reminded him that Indonesia's national car project may violate World Trade Organization [WTO] regulations.

Minister Tunky offered further talks at a working group level on the national car project, which is a joint venture

between an Indonesian company and South Korea's Kia Motors Corporation.

A MITI source said Japan may raise Indonesia's car project with the WTO, but this was denied by the diplomatic source in Jakarta. The source said Japan's Toyota plans to assemble low-cost Asian cars in Thailand and the Philippines, while Honda will do the same in Thailand. [passage omitted on details of Asian car]

Laos

Laos: SRV's Vo Van Kiet Arrives for New Year Celebration

*BK1504050296 Hanoi VNA in English
1542 GMT 14 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 14—Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife arrived in Luang Prabang this morning to attend the Lao traditional New Year's celebration as guests of Khamtai Siphandon, Lao prime minister and chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, and his wife.

PM Kiet, his wife and his party were welcome at the airport by Somsavat Lengsavat, member of the Party Central Committee and foreign minister, Chansi Phosikham, member of the Party Central Committee and provincial party secretary, and many others.

Vietnamese Ambassador to Laos Bui Van Thanh was also present at the meeting.

Later, Lao PM Khamtai Siphandon and his wife warmly received Mr. Vo Van Kiet, his wife and his party.

Mr. Siphandon expressed his pleasure joys at the fine development of the [words indistinct] friendship and solidarity between Vietnam and Laos. Vietnamese General Secretary Do Muoi's attending of the Sixth Lao Party Congress and this PM Vo Van Kiet's visit to Laos, in his words, would usher in a new period in the traditional friendly and cooperative ties between Vietnam and Laos and contribute to further strengthening and improving these ties.

PM Kiet expressed his pleasure at the achievements recorded by the Lao nationalities over the past year, which, he said, was a great encouragement to the Vietnamese people. [passage indistinct], thus helping to successfully carry out the resolutions set out by the Lao Revolutionary People's Party at its Sixth National Party Congress.

In the evening, a state banquet was given by the Lao prime minister in honour of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, his wife and entourage. [passage indistinct], and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries and to the prosperity and happiness of the two peoples.

Art performance was also held in honour of Prime Minister Kiet and the Vietnamese guests.

Laos: SRV Prime Minister, Delegation Visit Luang Prabang

*BK1504115896 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio
Network in Lao 1200 GMT 14 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to an invitation from Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, accompanied by his wife and delegation, arrived in Luang Prabang Province this morning for a visit and relaxation on the occasion of the celebration of Lao traditional New Year. The national radio news team reports:

[Begin recording] At the invitation of LPDR Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, SRV Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, his wife, and entourage arrived at the Luang Prabang airport in Luang Prabang Province this morning via a special Vietnam Airline's plane for a recreational visit to Laos on the occasion of the celebration of kutsongkan, the Lao traditional New Year. Vo Van Kiet, his wife, and entourage arrived at the Luang Prabang airport at 0930 local time.

Receiving the SRV prime minister were: Foreign Affairs Minister Somsavat Lengsavat; Luang Prabang Province Governor Chansi Phosikham; deputy ministers; provincial party committee and administrative members; and a number of cadres and public citizens of the province. On this occasion, Bui Van Thanh, Vietnamese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, was also present to receive the Vietnamese prime minister and his wife and delegation.

The SRV prime minister, his wife, and the delegation then paid a courtesy call on LPDR Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon at Luang Prabang's provincial guest hall. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon expressed his appreciation to SRV Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, his wife, and the delegation for their trip to participate in the annual traditional Lao New Year festival in Luang Prabang Province this year. He noted that their visit added a more lively atmosphere and profound significance to the celebration of traditional Lao New Year in Luang Prabang Province. Although their visit is short, it still is very important because the Lao people and the residents of Luang Prabang have an opportunity to welcome the SRV president. This helps to further strengthen relations and cooperation between Laos and Vietnam.

In reply, the SRV prime minister thanked the Lao prime minister for according him a warm welcome during his visit to Luang Prabang Province.

Vu Van Kiet, his wife, and the delegation then visited the Tat Kouang Si, an important and beautiful cultural and natural tourist attraction of Luang Prabang Province. The Vietnamese visitors were accompanied by Lao Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, his wife, and the delegation.

During the afternoon of the same day, the SRV prime minister, his wife, and delegation were accompanied by Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, his wife, and delegation to observe the nang sangkhan—or New Year's Queen—procession and traditional dances, a fine cultural heritage of Luang Prabang, which has been preserved since ancient times, in front of the Luang Prabang provincial museum.

During the evening, Khamtai Siphandon, his wife, and delegation, hosted a reception dinner in honor of the Vietnamese prime minister at the Phou Si auditorium in Luang Prabang amidst an atmosphere of solidarity between Laos and Vietnam.

The high-level SRV delegation led by Prime Minister Vu Van Kiet will spend two days in Luang Prabang Province. On the morning of 15 April, the SRV prime minister, his wife, and delegation, will attend the basi ceremony — a traditional Lao ceremony to express welcome and best wishes — at the Luang Prabang provincial hall before returning home on the same day.

The national radio news team reporting from Luang Prabang Province. [end recording]

Laos: Labor Ministry Delegation Meets PRC Counterpart

*BK1304113496 Vientiane KPL in English
0909 GMT 12 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, April 12 (KPL) — A delegation of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and a delegation of the Ministry of Labor of China held a discussion at the Lan Xang Hotel yesterday morning to discuss future cooperation between Laos and China.

The Lao delegation led by Mr Noi Indavong, deputy minister of labor and social welfare, hailed the visit to Laos by the Chinese delegation. The two sides informed each other of the socioeconomic development in their respective countries, and discussed the development of the friendly ties and cooperation between the two countries in general, and between the two ministries in particular. Both sides also expressed satisfaction over the constantly improved relations and cooperation.

The Chinese delegation led by Ms. Liu Ya Zhi, deputy minister of Labor, arrived here on 10 April at the

invitation of the Lao minister of labor and social welfare.

Philippines

Philippines: MILF-Military Fighting Results in 35 Deaths

*BK1504114896 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 15 Apr 96*

[Report by Felix Mediavillo — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At least 30 members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and five soldiers have been killed, while 20 others have been wounded, in fierce fightings in Carmen, Cotabato which began last April 6, the military reported yesterday.

As this developed, a church packed with worshipers in Zamboanga City was damaged yesterday when two unidentified men threw a grenade into it, the international news agency UPI said. The blast also injured 11 people.

Police said that the bomb attack, the 11th incident in the South in two months, caused panic at the Protestant Alliance Church in Baliwasan Grande village near the city.

In last Thursday's clash between government forces and the MILF in Cotabato, the fatalities included a soldier, while nine others were wounded.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Arturo Enrile said the series of clashes started when MILF rebels provoked soldiers guarding the Malitubog-Maridagao (Malmar) irrigation project in Carmen.

"If the MILF will continue to provoke us there, they (MILF men) will get what they deserve; Our forces will hit them hard," Enrile said.

He said the military merely retaliated when the MILF attacked military posts in the Malmar area last weekend, killing at least four soldiers.

Enrile said that with the attack, the MILF apparently violated an "informal cease-fire agreement" with the military and could be testing the government forces.

He said among the military posts attacked by the MILF last Thursday were the headquarters of the Army's 60th Infantry Battalion in the Malmar area and the 37th Infantry Battalion in Barangay [village] Sinapitan, Carmen.

The attack prompted the government to retaliate, using helicopter gunships and artillery fires. This also forced the evacuation of some 1,000 residents of Barangay

Kibayao, Gucutan, Tunganon, Kibenos, and Palangulan, all of Carmen Town.

But Enrile said that there has been no mass evacuation in Carmen since the area of conflict were not inhabited by civilians but which the MILF was claiming to belong to it.

Enrile said the clashes would have no effect on current peace talks between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) because the MNLF is a different group from the MILF.

He said the military is bound by an agreement forged through Gov. Zacarias Candao that no provocation will take place and that it will be confined to a five-kilometer radius.

He added that the military is following the so-called concept of containment and development, which means that the government will contain the conflict in a particular area so as not to affect the development in other areas of Mindanao.

Philippines: Foreign Investment Increased in 1995

*BK1204093496 Manila BUSINESS WORLD
in English 12 Apr 96*

[Report by Daniel O. Lizano — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The economy last year remained on the right track as foreign investments more than doubled the 1994 level.

Latest data from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) indicate a 102.4% jump in foreign investments in new and existing domestic and foreign entities to P [pesos] 25.65 billion in 1995 from P12.67 billion the previous year. The amount was spread over 2,842 companies which also reflected 225 more firms than in 1994.

Domestic entities received the bulk or P23.96 billion of the aggregate amount.

Foreign companies cornered P1.70 billion. The two figures were 97.6% and 214.9% greater than the comparative statistics in 1994.

The impressive performance was due mainly to the liberalization of certain sectors of the economy. For instance, the entry of foreign commercial banks into the local economy helped make the country more attractive to foreign investors.

Furthermore, the average interest rate was lower at 8.1% in 1995 compared with the 9% recorded in 1994.

In December alone, 235 companies ploughed in P3.45 billion worth of capital into the country, the biggest for any month in 1995.

Last November, news of the possible exemption of Board of Investments-registered firms from the expanded value-added tax (E-VAT) buoyed investors' expectations. The firms referred to those registered before year-end 1995. However, the measure was approved only last month as the Department of Finance and Malacanang [presidential palace] scuttled the proposal in November last year.

Meanwhile, although the number of investing companies were fewer by three, aggregate capital infusions of the 235 firms amounted to P3.45 billion for December last year. This was 159.4% larger than the P1.33 billion posted a year ago. Of this amount, P3.37 billion found its way to domestic entities and P77.6 million to foreign ones.

The Americans led the pack with P1.04-billion capital infusions in new and existing domestic stock entities. Most of these were invested in the manufacturing sector. Spain, a nontraditional source of capital for the country, surprisingly poured in P749.99 million, courtesy of Banco Santander, S.A. The Japanese followed with P605.57 million and the Hong Kong nationals with P543.02 million.

By industry, the manufacturing sector ate up P1.65 billion, followed by the financing, real estate, insurance, and business services sector with P1.55 billion. The utilities sector cornered P90.74 million.

Thailand

Thai Official: Need for ASEAN, Superpowers To Ratify Treaty

*BK1304113296 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES
in English 13-14 Apr 96 p A3*

[Report by Saranyu Samakrathatkit]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok — ASEAN states as well as the five superpowers until now have not ratified the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ) treaty, revealed the Foreign Ministry's Deputy Permanent Secretary Sarot Chawanawirat.

Indonesia, which heads the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)'s Standing Committee, so far has not informed Thailand about the progress of the consultative working group which is responsible for seeking the treaty's ratification from the five nuclear-weapon states, said Sarot.

He said the governments which signed the treaty last year have not yet ratified the treaty.

Thailand can easily ratify the treaty because the treaty is not relevant to its territorial and boundary matters. The

other countries need more time and have to go through legitimate procedures in their national assemblies before they can ratify the document, said the official.

The SEANWFZ will be enforced the moment the ten relevant Asian governments ratify the treaty.

Leaders of the ten Southeast Asian nations signed the treaty at the fifth ASEAN Summit in Bangkok four months ago to declare their territories free of nuclear weapons. ASEAN asked the five nuclear powers to sign the attached protocol to the SEANWFZ treaty.

The five nuclear-weapon states which comprise the United Kingdom, the United States, Russia, France and China have had reservations in signing the treaty's attached protocol.

Prime Minister Banhan Siriapa-acha, however, said that French President Jacques Chirac declared his commitment to ratify the treaty during the first Asia-Europe Meeting last month.

Thai Governor Urges Talks With Burma on Border Line Repairs

BK1304113596 Bangkok BANGKOK POST
in English 13 Apr 96 p 6

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chiang Rai — The provincial governor has urged the Foreign Ministry to hold talks with Rangoon on repairing damaged border demarcation stakes to avoid any possible territorial disputes.

Khamron Bunchot said several stakes along the 200km border line divided by the Sai River had disappeared or been damaged.

He said he had no idea what caused them to vanish or be damaged. But he said they needed to be fixed immediately.

Thai officials could not unilaterally make the repairs as this would risk accusations of encroaching on Burmese territory, Mr Khamron said.

He suggested a joint committee should be set up to undertake the maintenance.

Mr Khamron also called for the upgrading of the Mae Sai-Tachilek border checkpoint to cope with the increase in Burmese visitors.

The checkpoint was reopened last month after a year-long closure due to strained relations between the two countries.

Burmese people who cross the border from Tachilek into Mae Sai District do not need to have visas or border passes.

They are normally issued with paper slips by Burmese and Thai immigration officials.

They are not allowed to stay overnight on Thai territory and have to return to Burma in the evening.

However, many Burmese who cross into Mae Sai through the checkpoint do not return and stay on to work in the province or venture out to other cities.

The governor said there is currently no record of how many Burmese pass through the checkpoint each day.

All incoming Burmese should be required to carry a passport or a border pass so Thai immigration officials can keep track of them, he said.

But Pol Lt-Col [Police Lieutenant Colonel] Surasak Suntharapha, the provincial police deputy superintendent, said this might not be practicable for all those coming in as not every Burmese can get a passport or border pass.

Officials have estimated there are about 30,000 Burmese living and working illegally, mostly in the construction sector, in the northern province.

The Thai Government last year allowed employers in provinces bordering Burma to hire Burmese labourers on the condition the employers put up a 5,000 baht deposit at the provincial labour office for each worker.

However, officials said this regulation has not been popular among employers. About 10 percent of the Burmese workers have work permits, they claimed.

Business in Mae Sai District is slowly picking up following the reopening of the border last month.

In a bid to bolster cross-border trade and contact, the provincial administration has set aside nine million baht to build a new bridge across the Rai River.

Thailand: Efforts Under Way To Boost Trade With Burma

BK1304112796 Bangkok THE NATION in English
13 Apr 96 p A3

[Report by Piyarat Siwalo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Prime Minister Annuai Wirawan will in the near future lead a high-level delegation of economic ministers and business people to Burma in an attempt to promote stronger economic relations between the two countries.

The trip is also aimed at resolving "at the earliest" all pending trade problems and disputes that have hampered economic growth and business transactions between the two neighbours.

Amnuai's decision to embark on the Burma trip was made during Wednesday's first meeting of a committee established by Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha on March 21 to promote trade with Thailand's four neighbours and Vietnam.

An official source at the meeting said the 19-member committee, which is headed by Amnuai and comprises top officials from various ministries and government agencies, agreed that in terms of trade with its neighbours, Burma was Thailand's biggest problem.

Burma has a lot of bureaucratic red tape and has developed "a strong mistrust" towards the Thai private sector, an attitude which Thailand has to dispel "at the earliest," the source said.

Political instability, lack of basic infrastructure and developed human resources, as well as internal ethnic conflicts, double currency rates and numerous investment laws were identified as the major obstacles for foreign business people and investors wanting to operate in Burma.

Another major obstacle is that Burmese banks will not open letters of credit for Burmese importers with local Kyat currency, thus forcing the country's own traders to resort to barter trade.

The source said although Thailand and Burma established a joint Thai-Burma Commission on Trade on Feb 2, 1990, the panel has never met to discuss bilateral issues.

Despite several existing obstacles, Burma has great economic potential and remains very attractive to foreign traders and corporations. The country is blessed with natural resources, especially gems, timber and mineral ores, but still needs basic commodities such as clothing and textiles, medicine and household utensils.

Thailand's trade deficit with Burma decreased gradually from 1991 to 1993, from [Thai baht] Bt3.23 billion in 1991 to Bt75.6 million in 1993. Thailand then started to develop a trade surplus. In 1994 the Kingdom earned Bt2.06 billion and in 1995 increased its balance of trade with Burma to Bt3.22 billion.

According to figures provided by the Commerce Ministry, the country's total two-way trade last year with Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia and Vietnam amounted to more than Bt167 billion, while border trade at land crossings amounted to another Bt61 billion.

The meeting decided to establish a subcommittee headed by Deputy Commerce Minister Montri Danphabun to work out border trade strategies as a number of obstacles to growth in border transactions still exist.

The source said the government is considering setting up trade offices at points along the border to promote trading activities with its neighbours and to try to ensure their smooth operation.

Thai Article Views Candidates To Succeed Cambodia's Sihanouk

BK1204140496 Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai 9 Apr 96 pp 39

[Article by Anek Phoenwongseni: "Who Will Succeed Norodom Sihanouk as King"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] King Norodom Sihanouk raised the issue of the succession to his throne on several occasions in February this year. It appears, however, that he was not happy with the conduct of the possible candidates to succeed him. He asked ruefully how he could preserve the monarchy if other members of the royal family made frequent mistakes that cast a dark shadow on the monarchy system. Many people feel that his remark was directed at Prince Norodom Ranariddh. Sihanouk feels that the Khmer Rouge issue is less important than the internal bickering within the government, which he believes is the most serious threat to his country.

Sihanouk wants to reform the process used to select the new king from among the royal candidates who are neutral and have been accepted by the government, the parliament, and the people, including the Khmer Rouge. He wants National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim to pick the new king in case consensus could not be reached in the selection process.

Among Sihanouk's children who are capable of succeeding him to the throne are: Norodom Ranariddh (1944), Norodom Yuveakneat (1943), Norodom Chakkrapong (1945), Norodom Arun Reaksmei (1955), Norodom Sihmoni (1953), and Norodom Narindrapong (1954).

The chance of Ranariddh ascending to the throne is slim due to opposition from the Khmer Rouge and the Cambodian People's Party. Sihanouk has advised Ranariddh to resign from his political posts to make himself neutral. Ranariddh, however, appears to have little aspiration for the throne.

Norodom Sihmoni, son of the current queen, appears to be more interested in fine arts and dancing. Norodom Yuveakneat, who lives in Boston under political asylum, has the support of Hun Sen and has been invited by the latter back to Cambodia. The 2 March issue of FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW says Yuveakneat has a modest personality and the least flaws among

the other candidates. He has the quality that the people want.

The succession to the throne will unavoidably become a very important political issue in Cambodia soon. The current indications favor Norodom Yuveakneat, but nothing is certain in Cambodian politics.

Thai Ban on Imported British Dairy Products Revoked

BK1404105796 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 14 Apr 96 p A3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand has revoked a ban on imported British dairy products after the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that "mad cow" disease was not found in the products.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Secretary-General Phakdi Phosiri said the disease has not contaminated any dairy products, including gelatin, according to the WHO's latest information.

Last month the FDA issued an order barring the import of any products made from or including any parts of cattle from Great Britain after the British government announced there was a possible link between Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and its fatal human equivalent, Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease.

Thai Officer in Charge of Satellite Project Removed From Post

BK1304113796 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Apr 96 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Defence Minister removed Air Marshal [AM] Wira Kanhasiri from the Defence Technology and Telecommunications Centre without the knowledge of permanent secretary Gen Phaibun Emphan, according to some military sources.

AM Wira, who was the director of the centre, was removed from his position by Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut on Thursday and replaced by Lt. Gen Montrai Suphaphon, who is widely known to have worked closely with Gen Chawalit for decades.

The centre supervises the Star of Siam military satellite project. The permanent secretary is AM Wira's direct commander.

The sources say that normally, military officers promoted to new posts are left in the positions for at least a year unless they have made serious errors justifying early removal.

One senior officer commented:

"AM Wira has been in the position just six months. His only error, a grave one, was to be disliked by staff close to Gen Chawalit at the ministry."

Gen Chawalit said earlier that he would not get involved in the reshuffle list and would not make any changes to it.

The Defence Technology and Telecommunications System was formed last year by the Defence Ministry with the purpose of supervising the implementation of the military satellite project.

"Gen Phaibun is unhappy about AM Wira's removal as he considers him to be a competent and straightforward officer who has not done anything wrong since his promotion to the post," the sources say.

It was an open secret in the Defence Ministry that staff officers from the Permanent Secretary's Office have had bitter disagreements with staff officers of the Defence Minister over the 28 billion baht satellite project, the sources say.

The proposal studied by the centre that has been forwarded to the Defence Minister was shelved by Gen Chawalit's staff officers, the sources say.

Under the centre's proposed satellite plan, the Star of Siam system was purely for military use and would include two satellites and two master control stations including a suite of fixed and mobile ground terminals.

The Defence Minister has proposed changes to the concept of the military satellite system by allowing the satellites, to be launched by private sector firms which would get concession from the Defence Ministry, to be used for civilian purposes.

Under the original plan, the military would take direct responsibility for the launching of the military satellites.

Thai Finance Minister Orders Panel To Discuss Arms Spending

BK1504051896 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 15-16 Apr 96 p A1

[Report by Financial and Political desks]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok — The effect of arms purchases on the already high national current account deficit will be the topic of a discussion between the Finance Ministry, the Budget Bureau and the Bank of Thailand (BOT) within the next two weeks.

The talks were ordered by Finance Minister Surakiat Sathianthai after the current account deficit increased to

over 8.1 percent in the first quarter of 1996, and will likely reach over 10 percent by 1999.

Surakit is also likely to be attacked by the opposition over the deficit question in the May 8 no-confidence debate, so it will be in his best interests to have some answers ready, said a source from the Finance Ministry.

Arms purchases by the military were considered a factor in last year's account deficit increase. The deficit last year was 335 billion baht or 8.1 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

In the 1997 budget, the government allocated 107 billion baht to the armed forces, seven percent more than in 1996. The amount is about 12 percent of the total 1997 budget.

A Defense Ministry booklet called "The Defense of Thailand 1996" shows that the percentage of the defense budget relative to the national budget has decreased every year. In 1995 it received 12.82 percent of the national budget while in 1994 and 1993 it was given 13.67 and 14.04 respectively.

Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut said the armed forces spent its 1995 budget sparingly, and that the budget could not be lowered.

"Don't touch the armed forces budget," said Chawalit. "The military uses it economically and to great benefit, even though it is continually cut. The armed forces should not be blamed for causing the current account deficit."

Surakit refused to comment on Gen Chawalit's remarks for fear the reaction would be hostile.

A source from the Chat Thai Party (CTP) told **THAILAND TIMES** that Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapachai had just ordered the armed forces, as well as government departments involved, to solve the arms purchasing dilemma, even though he received the same report from the Finance Ministry quite awhile ago.

A ministry source said the armed forces budget would have to be trimmed to solve the deficit crisis, and this would likely start in 1997.

Fiscal Policy Office director-general Somchai Ruchuphan refused to comment on the arms purchase plan, saying only that the matter has to be approached carefully.

"The military budget is for the country's protection, and security is essential," he cautiously said.

BOT deputy governor Chaiwat Wibunsawat said arms purchase are not causing the current account deficit.

"Arms purchases are already calculated in the budget," he said. "However, the armed forces should not buy more arms than they earlier agreed to."

A banker, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the current account deficit problem is difficult to define in terms of where it came from and how it can be solved since Thailand's overseas investment is still very high.

Thailand has to import more foreign goods each year," he said, adding it will take at least five years to efficiently tackle the problem.

Government spokesman Somsak Pritsanananthakun told the **THAILAND TIMES** that the current account deficit has been accumulating for a long time and it has become a crisis for the present government.

He attributed the crisis to people's consumeristic tendency to spend their money rather than save it, adding that money spent dealing with last year's flooding was a serious factor.

He admitted military spending was a factor in the deficit, but said it was not a main cause.

"To solve the current deficit will take time," he said, adding that he is confident that the problems will be alleviated in the near future.

Many senior military men have defended the spending plans, both verbally and in writing.

Col Chongsak Phanitchakun (pen name Lt-Col Thatthiam Yiamnakhon), wrote an article in the **ARMY NEWS** magazine on April 9.

He said the arms used by the military are mostly out of date. For example: M16 assault rifles and 27-year-old American jeeps. A regiment in Lop Buri province are even equipped with artillery that was used in the reign of King Rama VII, he claimed.

Thatthiam also said the defense budget allocated each year will be divided to pay salaries, training supplies, and facilities. Only about 10 percent of the defense budget of the three branches of the military will be spent on arms.

Last year, the armed forces received 91,638 million baht. However, it has only spent about nine billion baht on arms, Thatthiam explained.

He added that the current deficit is caused mainly by the profligate spending habits of the Thai people.

Suphong Limtanakun, a lecturer at Bangkok University, said the defense budget should be cut and the government should put its emphasis on helping the poor.

He said the government should consult with neighboring countries about cutting the defense budget, so the finances can be put towards national economic development.

Suphong gave examples of some countries who spent too much on defense. China built the Great Wall but it could not stop their enemies. Russia spent so much on defense and its economy collapsed. And Iraq's military endeavors led to it being boycotted by the United Nations, which resulted in great poverty and suffering.

Vietnam

SRV: Thai Foreign Minister Begins Four-Day Visit

BK1504153196 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thai Foreign Minister Kasemsamasan Kasemsi began his four-day visit to Vietnam on Monday at the invitation of his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Manh Cam. This is the first visit to Vietnam by an ASEAN foreign minister since Vietnam became a member of the ASEAN organization last year.

SRV: Hungarian National Assembly Delegation Visits

BK1504050096 Hanoi VNA in English
1531 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 14—Vietnam wants to maintain, consolidate and further develop the fine relationship with Hungary for the benefit and prosperity of each country, thus making a positive contribution to peace and stability in the region, Vu Mao, member of the National Assembly's [NA] Standing Committee, said at the talks with a Hungarian parliamentary delegation this afternoon.

The delegation from the Hungarian National Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee, led by its Chairman Eorsi Matyas [name as received], arrived here on April 13 for a four-day working visit.

After briefing the Hungarian parliamentarians on the economic development and preparation for the forthcoming Eighth National Party Congress, [words indistinct], who is also member of the NA External Relations Commission, recalled the traditional friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He also expressed gratitude to the Hungarian people for their valuable support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's past struggle for national liberation and reunification.

Speaking of the socio-economic situation in his country, Mr Eorsi Matyas said that in the Hungarian foreign policy, priority is given to the country's integration into

the European Community and then the development of friendly and cooperative relations with Vietnam.

Both sides also discussed issues of common concern, the role of the state and government in the management of the market economy, land ownership, development of economic sectors and measures to be taken to develop their national economy.

SRV National Assembly Issues Communique on 1996 Tasks

BK1404124996 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Communique issued by the SRV National Assembly Standing Committee in Hanoi; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The SRV National Assembly Standing Committee held a conference in Hanoi on 8-11 April under the chairmanship of National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh. State Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh attended the conference.

1. After hearing a report by the head of the National Assembly Office on the assessment of the results of the recent Ninth National Assembly's ninth session, and on the basis of National Assembly deputies' viewpoints, the National Assembly Standing Committee discussed various points and agreed that the Ninth National Assembly's ninth session was a success. It proceeded in accordance with the agenda, passed three important laws, and decided on various essential measures to continue effectively implementing the 1996 state tasks and budget.

Drawing on lessons from various issues raised during the ninth and other previous sessions of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee provided initial ideas in anticipation of the upcoming National Assembly's tenth session. It charged agencies concerned with the task of urgently preparing topics for the agenda of this session.

The National Assembly Standing Committee also discussed and decided on its various key tasks from now to the end of 1996, which include efforts to strengthen supervision of the formulation and drafting of laws and decrees as scheduled in the legislative programs from now to the end of the Ninth National Assembly's term, especially the program passed in 1996. It called for efforts to control the implementation and enforcement of the promulgated laws and other activities so as to contribute triumphantly to fulfilling the 1996 tasks in accordance with the spirit of various resolutions of the National Assembly.

2. The National Assembly Standing Committee passed the decision on procedures to resolve labor disputes,

which is aimed at: contributing to creating a legal base for satisfactorily implementing the Labor Code; promptly and correctly resolving labor disputes; and protecting the state's interests and rights and the legitimate interests of the laborers, collective groups, and those who use workers.

The National Assembly Standing Committee also contributed ideas on the revised draft bill on amendments and supplements to some provisions of the law on rights and obligations of organizations at home [words indistinct], the draft regulation on charges and fees, and the draft regulation on administrative procedures. The National Assembly Standing Committee asked various drafting agencies to coordinate with the National Assembly's investigative committee and agencies concerned to urgently perfect these draft bills to submit to the National Assembly for consideration and approval.

SRV: National Investment Support Fund Begins Operation

*BK1304090496 Hanoi VNA in English
1334 GMT 12 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 12—The national investment support fund will operate this year by lending out VND [Vietnamese dong] 500-600 billion (USD 45-54 million) of which VND200 billion comes from the state budget, VND100 billion contributed by major domestic enterprises and the remainder from other domestic and external sources.

The fund, set up under the Dec. 9, 1995 prime minister's decision with a registered capital of VND [figure indistinct] billion (USD 100 million), will operate as a non-profit state financial institution on a national scale and in accordance with the charter approved by the P.M. Half of the registered capital will be contributed by the state budget.

Investment projects in building, upgrading, and modernizing facilities and technology improvement in the economic sectors and regions set in the priority list stipulated by the government will benefit from the fund's loans. The fund will be exempted from taxes in order to reduce interest rates on loans and will be covered against any force majeure by the National Risk Insurance Fund under the Finance Ministry's regulations.

SRV: Further on Illness of Imprisoned Monk

*BK1204024396 (Internet) SEASIA Listserv in English
12 Apr 96*

[Press release issued by the International Buddhist Information Bureau in Paris on 11 April]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Venerable Thich Huyen Quang, Patriarch of the independent Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV) is seriously ill as a result of insalubrious detention conditions, and has asked the authorities to take him back to Hoi Phuoc Pagoda, in Quang Ngai. Since he was formally arrested on December 29 1994, the 77-year-old Patriarch has been incarcerated in a cramped, one-room brick hut in Nghia Hanh village, Quang Ngai. He is held incommunicado, and permanently surrounded by Security Police. The Patriarch suffers badly from the cold and damp, and recently developed chronic lung disorders and other serious complications due to massive quantities of insecticides sprayed near his hut and on the surrounding fields. Buddhists cannot confirm whether or not the spraying of insecticides is deliberately aimed at harming the Patriarch's health, but they express deep concern about his present condition. Hoi Phuoc Pagoda, Quang Ngai, is where Thich Huyen Quang spent over 12 years under house arrest for his protests against State control over religions, and his demands for religious freedom and human rights.

Thich Hai Tang has been refused the right to receive visits by the prison authorities following allegations of ill-treatment made by his father, Mr Nguyen Dinh Ky, in a letter to Communist Party leaders. In his letter, published below, Mr Ky stated that he would commit suicide if his son was not granted independent medical access in the next two months. He also said that Thich Hai Tang had protested against his ill-treatment by staging a hunger strike in prison. The International Buddhist Information Bureau (IBIB) reported on Thich Hai Tang's plight in a previous Press Statement, based on information furnished by a member of the Vietnamese Interior Ministry sympathetic to the Buddhist cause. The Foreign Ministry in Hanoi subsequently denied these allegations, but nevertheless refused all further visits to Thich Hai Tang's family. Visiting days are on the 30th of each month, and applications to visit prisoners have to be filed on the 28th. The application filed by Thich Hai Tang's family on March 28 was turned down by the prison authorities.

Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Independence — Freedom — Happiness

APPEAL

Duy Son, 7 March 1996 (*)

To:

— The Communist Party leadership and all administrative and State echelons,

— All Venerable monks, the Buddhist Church, all Pagodas and Buddhist lay-followers everywhere

I am Nguyen Dinh Ky, born in 1912, currently residing at hamlet 1, Duy Son commune, Duy Xuyen district in the province of Quang Nam- Danang. I am an old, helpless man, and I know not in whom to confide my unspeakable pain! For the first time in over a year, I recently gathered my strength to make the strenuous trip to Hanoi to visit Venerable Thich Hai Tang, who has been in prison for almost three years. From the day of his arrest to the day of his trial, my family was never once informed by the authorities. When he was imprisoned in Quang Tri, then transferred to Nam Ha, I managed to visit him occasionally. But never before have I seen him in such a pitiful state! I was allowed to see my son for approximately thirty minutes. He was terribly ill, his body emaciated, and I learned from our meeting that he had been detained in solitary confinement for the past nine months, seeing nothing but the four walls of his cell! His stomach ulcers were causing him great pain, and he had been on the verge of being operated several times. I don't know how long he can endure it. Our thirty minutes together passed so quickly, and I choked with emotion as I said goodbye, my heart filled with pain! All the way home, the image of Thich Hai Tang's gaunt body filled my eyes, and his parting words echoed in my ears, as if they were the last words of a dying man: "Dear mother and father, consider that one of your children has sacrificed his life for Buddhism. If I must die in prison, it is more honourable than to die peacefully in the pagoda. But will I ever have the chance to die in the pagoda? Please don't visit me again. Only fifteen more months, and I'll be home" (his four-year sentence will be over in fifteen months).

In reverence to Lord Buddha, Dear Sirs, Fifteen more months — but can my son survive fifteen more months in solitary confinement, wracked by spasms of pain from his ulcers? I feel such pity and anguish for him, and so many worries crowd my mind each night. I learned, moreover, that during the recent New Year festival, whilst all Vietnamese people were joyfully welcoming in the Year of the Rat, Thich Hai Tang was on hunger strike in his cell. How painful, how unbearable to think of this!

Dear Sirs, leaders of the Communist Party and all administrative and State echelons, Venerable monks, the Buddhist Church, all Pagodas, and Buddhist lay-followers everywhere, I have spent so many nights

worrying, not knowing to whom I could turn. Then it struck me that I am a citizen of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and a member of the Buddhist Church. I therefore address you the following appeal for help. I am Thich Hai Tang's father, yet in the past, from the day of his arrest and conviction up till now, I have never expressed the slightest protest about my son's treatment, trusting in the clairvoyant leadership of the Party and State, and the fairness and impartiality of the Law. However, after seeing him so seriously ill, subjected to continual solitary confinement, I feel obliged to ask for your clarification on:

— Although I am Thich Hai Tang's father, I was never informed by the competent authorities of my son's arrest, nor notified of the date of his trial. Furthermore, I have still not been told what offense my son committed, which article of law did he violate to be punished with detention in a solitary confinement cell?

— Whilst I was in the visiting room in Hanoi, just after they took my son back inside, I heard him screaming and crying inside the prison. What were they doing to him in there?

As Thich Hai Tang's father, I respectfully make the following three requests:

- 1) That my son be immediately released from solitary confinement;
- 2) That he be granted compassionate parole on the grounds of serious ill-health, and allowed urgent, independent medical treatment;
- 3) That, if a surgical operation is deemed necessary, the family's consent must first be obtained, given that Thich Hai Tang would not be in a fit state of body and mind to take this decision (by family I mean his mother and myself, or his brothers and sisters at the very least, as well as the monks from Linh Mu and Long An Pagodas where he previously practiced his religion).

These are modest and reasonable demands, considering the gravity of my son's illness. Once these points are resolved, if the State continues to impose the prison sentence, my son is prepared to serve out his penalty in strict accordance with the law, openly and clearly. If correct procedures are respected, I will have no further complaints to make. I sincerely hope you will promptly examine and settle these concerns, and inform me in consequence. I am an old, frail man, over eighty-years-old. In putting forward these three heartfelt requests, I hereby vow that, if they are not fulfilled within two months from today, I will take my own life, so I can follow my son in death and protect him. I call upon the tolerance of all leaders of the Communist Party and the Government, and ask you to implement the

law in its true spirit of justice and equality. I call on the compassion of all Venerable monks, the Buddhist Church and all Buddhist followers everywhere to unite together and pray for my son.

Yours sincerely, In reverence to Amitaba Buddha,

(Signature) The Father of Thich Hai Tang Nguyen Dinh Ky (**)

N.B. The Interior Ministry source, quoted in the International Buddhist Information Bureau Press release of 31.3.1996, erroneously gave the date of this letter as March 20th (*), and the name of Thich Hai Tang's father as Nguyen Van Ky (**). However, apart from these two small discrepancies, the information was correct, IBIB.

Australia

Australia: Alatas' Reactions to Howard's Visit Viewed

BK1504120096 Melbourne Radio Australia
in English 0630 GMT 15 Apr 96

[From the "International report" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's Foreign Minister Alexander Downer arrives in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, today in his first foray into Asia since taking office. The Australian Government has already made it clear that relations with Indonesia will be given high priority. For its part, Indonesia has arranged for Mr. Downer to meet President Suharto and no fewer than eight cabinet ministers during his stay. As for human rights, which have affected ties between the two countries in the past, Indonesia's Foreign Minister Ali Alatas says he fully expects his Australian counterpart to raise the thorny issue of East Timor. From Jakarta, Michael Maher reports:

[Begin recording] [Maher] President Suharto came to power when Harold Holt was prime minister of Australia. The changes of administration in Canberra are hardly normal events for the 74-year-old Indonesian leader. However, it is a widely-held view here in Jakarta that what had been a brittle relationship between two largely different nations was given new substance and stability during Paul Keating's time in office. It's a measure of the Indonesian Government's desire to build upon those foundations that during Mr. Downer's three-day stay he will be introduced to eight cabinet ministers as well as to President Suharto. During the Australian election campaign, Paul Keating argued that, while Asian leaders would talk to the Howard government, they would not deal with it. But Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas is making it plain that his country is keen to take bilateral ties forward.

[Alatas] We would like to continue the things that we have been doing with the previous government and all the good things that we have been doing and further strengthen and deepen our relationship in many fields. I am sure that with Mr. Downer we will be able to talk about a lot of things that we can do together.

[Maher] Mr. Downer has already made it clear that the new government will continue to have an Asia first policy. Do you think that those statements were clear of any misperceptions, misconceptions about the new government and where it intends to head policy-wise?

[Alatas] Well, to be frank it never [pauses] we never suffered under misperception in the government. There was a lot of writing in the press, but we knew that foreign policy in Australia was, by and large, a

bipartisan thing, and we were sure that the lines that were laid out, the foundations that were established under the Labor government would be continued, by and large, by the new government, including this close cooperation with Asia.

[Maher] In opposition, Alexander Downer, during a speech delivered to an Amnesty International conference, signaled that the coalition government would take a tougher stance with Indonesia over human rights issues. Just last week, however, in his first major foreign policy address as minister, Mr. Downer said he would not be engaging in so-called mega-fine diplomacy on the vexed matter of human rights. Ali Alatas says he fully expects human rights to feature in his discussions with his new Australian counterpart.

[Alatas] You know our position. We never shrink away from talking about human rights between governments. That is what, I think, the Charter of the United Nations wants us to do — to cooperate with one another in the promotion and protection of human rights. So, there is no problem there. We will certainly talk about human rights. We will talk about East Timor for sure, but that is something that we have been doing for years now. [end recording]

Australia: Editorial Views Downer's First Overseas Visit

BK1504152696 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN
FINANCIAL REVIEW in English 15 Apr 96

[Editorial: "Downer's Asian Debut" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Alexander Downer is taking a cautious and carefully modulated message to Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand this week. On his first overseas visit as the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Downer will focus on reassuring three key Asian neighbours that the new Government will continue to pursue closer engagement with Asia as Australia's highest foreign policy priority.

At the same time, judging by his speech last week to foreign correspondents in Sydney, Mr Downer will indicate some new policy emphases — notably the role he intends to assign to bilateral relations, to the link between foreign policy and domestic economic performance and competitiveness and to the potential value to Asian countries of Australia's links with North America and Europe.

None of this will surprise Jakarta, Singapore or Bangkok. But given that this is Mr Downer's first overseas foray as Minister for Foreign Affairs, his message — and the capitals in which he has chosen to

deliver it — are well-judged and should provide a solid foundation for future relations.

Mr Downer will stress the essential continuity of Australian foreign policy under the Coalition Government and the bipartisan identification of Australia's security and economic interests. It was logical, perhaps inevitable, that he should go first to Indonesia, Australia's largest and closest and sometimes most troubling neighbour, as well as to Singapore and Thailand. All are important economic and security partners for Australia.

Perhaps Mr Downer's most important task this week will be to convince regional leaders that he has the political credibility and intellectual weight to replace his long-serving predecessor, Mr Gareth Evans, who was admired in the region. Despite his ill-fated period as Leader of the Opposition, Mr Downer has made a good start as Minister for Foreign Affairs. But this week's visit will help determine how he is perceived in the region.

An early test for Mr Downer will be his handling of the sensitive East Timor issue between Australia and Indonesia. How he performs will set the tone of the Coalition's approach to human rights issues throughout Asia. Last week Mr Downer said East Timor was a minor irritation ("a pebble in the shoe") and that public comments would only harden Indonesian attitudes. The remarks suggested that Mr Downer had accepted the so-called Asian cultural values argument and that he would follow the previous government's soft-pedal policy on human rights.

If so, he should note words written by Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Anwar Ibrahim: "It is altogether shameful, disingenuous, to cite Asian values as an excuse for autocratic practices and denial of basic rights and civil liberties ... we ... must be prepared to champion those ideals which are universal and which belong to humanity as a whole." Those words should be at the top of Mr Downer's brief when he meets President Suharto tomorrow.

Mr Downer is also likely to be questioned on Coalition plans to cut Australian aid to Asia. He will not find it easy to argue that less is more when it comes to aid dollars. Like it or not, Australia's commitment to Asia will be judged partly on the Government's willingness to put its money where its mouth is in assisting development aid projects.

Less urgently, Mr Downer will also have to eliminate an intellectual fuzziness in his foreign policy thinking. At one level he sees himself as an enlightened realist who accepts the primacy of power and power balances in shaping the behaviour of nations in an anarchic world —

a view he reflected last Friday when he acknowledged the over-arching importance in Asia of major powers like the US, China, Japan, Russia and India.

At the same time he committed the Government to strengthening regional institutions like APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] and the ASEAN Regional Forum. Yet, for realists, such institutions do not prevent war or the threat of war because they do not significantly affect State behaviour. At best they reflect the balance of power, although great powers doubtless find them useful for increasing their share of world power.

Given his support for "strong" bilateral relations, Mr Downer needs to reconcile his realist, institutionalist and bilateral impulses. At present he seems to want all three — a political luxury that may be denied to him by the remarkable economic and military dynamism that he will confront this week in Asia.

Fiji

Fiji: Ethnic Indians Dominate Increase in Emigration

BK0704070396 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Official figures released in Fiji show a big increase in emigration. The figures show that in the first 10 months of 1995, a total of more than 4,000 Fiji citizens emigrated, an increase of more than 14 percent over the same period in 1994. More than 90 percent of those emigrating were ethnic Indians. A Radio Australia correspondent in Suva says the deterioration in the Fiji economy has been cited as one of the main reasons for the rise in emigration. Monetary policies have been tightened following the announcement last June of a crisis within the National Bank of Fiji. Building permits issued fell by about 16 percent in 1995 and lending to agriculture, mining, financial institutions, and utility sector also fell.

New Zealand

New Zealand Alliance Leader on Preelection Coalition Deals

BK1304092896 Christchurch THE PRESS in English 11 Apr 96

[Article by Jim Anderton, member of parliament for Sydenham and leader of the Alliance — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A recent editorial in THE PRESS (March 14) challenged me to speak plainly about the Alliance's intentions regarding the formation

of governments following the MMP [mixed member proportional electoral system] election. I am happy to accept the challenge. In doing so I note that the Alliance is the only party that has been prepared to answer detailed questions about its intentions.

As **THE PRESS** correctly noted, our primary objective is to form a majority government in our own right. If we are unable to do that then we will seek to form a minority government, or a coalition government based on the Alliance policy programme.

THE PRESS challenged me to deny or admit, as soon as I can, whether after the election the Alliance would assess the situation and discuss coalitions with likely partners. This indeed is the position of other parties.

In fact I have already answered this challenge on a number of occasions.

The Alliance will not enter a post-election coalition unless the policy basis for it has been made clear before the election. The public has a right to know before they vote what the likely policy outcome of their vote will be. The Alliance will not be involved in "assessments and discussions" that amount to deal-making behind closed doors. In fact, if we traded away our policies after the election we would betray people who vote for the Alliance on the basis of our policy programme.

That means the Alliance will only enter a coalition after the election on the basis of our manifesto. For example, it is our view that Labour could split after the election because the contradictions between its Rogernomics impulses and its social spending rhetoric are so great. If that happened it may be that a number of Labour MPs [members of parliament] would be prepared to enter a coalition government based on the Alliance manifesto rather than be part of a government that involved National.

Other than that, parties wanting to make a coalition arrangement with the Alliance will have to discuss before the election the policy basis for the arrangement.

If that means that the Alliance is not able to form a government in its own right, it will ask other prospective governing parties what policy programme they intend to implement and what procedural undertakings they are prepared to give.

The Alliance will then decide on the course of action that most advances the Alliance policy programme and the interests of our constituency.

The Alliance will not support a National Party government minority or majority. Its policy programme is the very antithesis of social justice and environmental responsibility on which the Alliance is based.

The Alliance will not stop the supply of funding for the day-to-day needs of a minority government unless we are in a position to offer an alternative government immediately. That is because it cannot be in the interests of the country to stop payments to civil servants, beneficiaries, superannuitants, and all those who depend on the government for their incomes.

If the Alliance believes a government's policies are so disadvantageous to the welfare of our constituency that it should be brought down, and we have sufficient parliamentary support to replace the government, then we will do so by voting against the government on an appropriation bill — that is, a money bill — or we will defeat the government in the House so consistently on its legislative programme that it would be forced to resign.

The Alliance has made its post-election intentions very clear. It is now incumbent on other parties to do the same. A recent TV3 poll showed 85 per cent of those sampled believe parties should disclose potential coalition arrangements before the election.

We should be told which policies parties would trade away to form a coalition. For example, NZ [New Zealand] First says it is available to form a coalition with anyone, including National. NZ First needs to say what policies are not negotiable for Cabinet seats — would it accept National's immigration policy? Its acceptance of overseas investment? The surtax? Asset and income testing of elderly patients requiring long-stay geriatric care?

Labour has trailed the Alliance in one opinion poll this year and was 1 per cent ahead in another. It must state clearly whether, if it receives fewer votes than the Alliance, it would support an Alliance government over a National government.

As **THE PRESS** has eloquently argued, these issues are too important for the public to wait until after the election for answers. MMP is meant to deliver accountable, representative government. A government that depends on deals made behind closed doors after the election cannot be representative, nor can it be accountable to the electorate.

New Zealand: Commercial Radio Stations Sold to Consortium

BK1304091796 Christchurch **THE PRESS** in English
9 Apr 96

[Editorial: "Radio Sale" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The sale of Radio New Zealand's 41 commercial stations for \$89 million to

an international media consortium led by the publisher of the "New Zealand Herald", comes as somewhat of a surprise. The deal, subject to the outcome of court action by Maori interests who oppose the sale, gives control of the State-owned Radio Company Ltd to three partners: Wilson and Horton, Australian Provincial Newspapers Holdings, and Clear Channel Communications, of the United States. All three have links to the Irish media magnate, Tony O'Reilly.

Out in the cold are the other bidders, a British radio company, GWR, which already runs 12 New Zealand commercial radio stations and was widely considered a front-runner; and TV3's Canadian owner, CanWest. A fourth group initially interested, the Ohio-based Jacor, is believed not to have entered a bid. GWR, which had stitched together a last-minute arrangement with the Maori Development Corporation in an attempt to strengthen its application, had said it would pay a maximum of \$85.8 million for the stations. The corporation was said to have taken an interest of more than 5 per cent in the GWR bid, which was also supported by several institutions.

All to no avail. The successful tenderer, though, is not out of the woods yet. Still complicating the sale are the Maori objectors. Led by the Maori Council and the Maori Congress, they also include the Maori Women's Welfare League and the Wellington Maori Language Board. Although their attempt to get a High Court injunction to stop the sale was unsuccessful, Justice McGechan, in ruling on the injunction request, said he agreed with the group that the Crown had failed to meet its Treaty of Waitangi obligations to promote and protect the Maori language through broadcasting. The objectors say they will appeal.

The practical difficulties of broadcasting in Maori while retaining a sufficient audience to maintain commercial viability are enormous. Nothing causes listeners to reach for the off switch faster than broadcasts in a language they do not understand. The new owners may have to dedicate certain frequencies exclusively to Maori broadcasting if they are to address the need to encourage it and also to maintain an audience on their other stations.

Concerns that the sale will give the O'Reilly interests undue dominance in the potentially lucrative Auckland radio market are unfounded. Of the 157 commercial radio stations that operate nationally, GWR owns seven in Auckland, and five in Hamilton. It also owns the IRN News and Sport bulletin service. The successful consortium will control two Auckland stations, one of them part of the Newstalk ZB chain. It will also control an advertising production studio and RNZ

[Radio New Zealand] Sport. As well, Auckland has several independent radio stations. That mix alone should be enough to ensure competition.

Whether it guarantees diversity is another matter. The albatross of commercial radio is its sameness, one station sounding much like another. Certainly the consortium must make changes if it is to raise net profit beyond the \$2.8 million the RNZ commercial stations made in the year to last June. It has also to retain what it has just bought. The radio licences themselves expire in 2001, when they are likely to go to competitive tender. Dr O'Reilly will not shirk the alterations required. If management of his acquisitions abroad is any guide, a careful appraisal of what needs to be done will be followed eventually by decisive intervention. For the moment, the consortium has gone no further than to promise more investment and development.

Even more interesting than the sale of RNZ's commercial arm, however, is the effect it will have on what remains of public broadcasting, much of which, in recent years, has assumed a somewhat commercial character. Whether the National and Concert Programmes can now stand alone to develop as examples of radio excellence is the real test of the Government's broadcasting policy. Both are underfunded at present. It is their destiny, rather than the fate of the commercials, that is significant for discriminating radio listeners.

Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea: BRA Spokesman Views Situation

BK1204131996 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0630 GMT 12 Apr 96

[From the "International Report" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shortland Islands' MP [member of parliament], Albert Laore, has called for Bougainville to be recognized by the Solomon Islands. He sees this has been the only way to solve the crisis. A majority of the 168,000 citizens of the [Bougainville] island support independence from Papua New Guinea [PNG] as espoused by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA]. Patty Orafino has spoken with the BRA's Sydney-based political representative, Moses Havini, about whether that claim is legitimate.

[Begin recording] [Orafino] How many followers would the Bougainville Interim Government [BIG] and the BRA actually have these days?

[Havini] In terms of the politics of Bougainville, let me assure you that every Bougainvillians, you know, from the North to the South, all say the same bottom

line that there should be some kind of a political settlement on Bougainville; and when it comes to BRA, BIG, and also the Bougainville Transitional Government (BTG) on this particular political question there is no difference whatsoever, the support is unanimous. There is, however, a bit of a difference in terms of a treatment of peace. There is a certain section on Bougainville that would like to achieve peace as soon as possible and they like to achieve that by whatever way possible. There have been some groups of people on Bougainville that have been termed as hardcores that do not necessarily would like to have peace by negotiations. They have been accused of trying to get peace by the barrel of the gun.

[Orafino] What do you make of this recent comment where the minister of Shortland Islands has asked the Solomon Government to recognize Bougainville? Now what would that recognition actually entail and mean?

[Havini] That recognition of Bougainville is, in fact, something that we ourselves have included in our political campaigning internationally for an independent Bougainville. Now, Bougainville fits perfectly well within the international concept of [word indistinct]. That is what essentially makes a people and independent country, and in terms of Bougainville we qualify in just about everything; that is, we have a reasonably huge population, we have an economy that is vital, we have the support of our population, we can establish a measure of democratic government on Bougainville; and the only thing that we do not have, at the moment, is a recognition of our country by a third sovereign nation.

[Orafino] You say that the country is united and that it wants a political solution to the problems on Bougainville, but if the country united and if the Bougainville Transitional Government agree with you

on this continuing independence issue, it was my understanding that that had been put aside for the moment?

[Havini] Well, I think, in terms of the issue of independence, some of us would like to view it in terms of a total concept. In terms of a total concept, it could mean autonomy, self-determination, or independence. I mean it is a political process that essentially must be thrashed out between the PNG and Bougainville. I think the main thing is, and which I believe is essentially is for all parties, to get back to the negotiating table and discuss this issue. Now, we are very handicapped at the moment because the peace process that we had established during the December [word indistinct] conference and which was fully sponsored by the Australian Government was unfortunately derailed by the [PNG] prime minister, Sir Julius Chan, on the 12 January this year when he decided that we would not have any more overseas conferences. Now, by doing that, he virtually derailed the whole peace process. Now, we can either achieve peace between PNG and Bougainville by genuine discussions or by the barrel on the gun. Obviously, when Sir Julius Chan lifted the cease-fire on the 15th of this month [March] and unleashing new troops on Bougainville, he obviously would like to achieve the so-called peace by the barrel of the gun. Now, the common consensus on Bougainville, which is now being supported by both BTG, BRA, and BIG, is for all parties to get to the negotiating table and thresh the issue of the political question on Bougainville. I must repeat that we'd like to see that as a total concept, and I don't think it is necessarily a threatening matter or issue for the parties just to simply get that onto the negotiating table and thresh this issue is out. [end recording]

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